

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LII.]

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No. 23

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BIRTHS.

On 19th October, at Conway Terrace, Paignton, the wife of W. H. PHILLIPS, F. I. Inst., late manager of the Pumjum Gold Mines, Pahang, of a daughter.

On the 20th November, 1900, the wife of the Rev. W. R. STOBIE, of Wenchow, of a daughter.

On the 28th November, 1900, at Pootung, Shanghai, the wife of PETER MUNGALL, of a daughter.

On the 30th November, 1900, at 5, Range Villas, Shanghai, the wife of J. J. MANSFIELD, of a son.

At Sassoon's Villa, Hongkong, on the 3rd December, the wife of JAMES WALKER, of a son.

On the 5th December, 1900, at the Peak, Hongkong, the wife of E. J. GRIFF, of a son.

On the 6th December, at Leipzig (Saxony), the wife of P. SACHSE, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

At St. George's Church, Penang, on the 16th November, by the Rev. W. H. C. Dunkerley, M.A., Colonial Chaplain, JAMES FORBES to ANN SINCLAIR CHEYNE, only daughter of the late Patrick CHEYNE, Turiff, Scotland.

At St. Andrew's Cathedral, Singapore, on the 21st November, 1900, ROWLAND ALLEN, L. L. B. of the Inner Temple, Barrister-at-Law, youngest son of William ALLEN, of Leek Staffs, to MAUD ANNIE, third daughter of the Rev. Hugh BACON, Rector of Baxterly Merivale and Hurley.

DEATHS.

On the 20th November, at 10.30 p.m., at No. 13, Wilkie Road, Shanghai, the son of Capt. JELlicoe, aged 7 months.

On the 29th November, 1900, at 4, Makalee Terrace, Shanghai, CLAUDE MARION, infant daughter of William BRIGHT, Chinese Customs Service, aged 21 months and 12 days.

At the Peak Hospital, on the 5th December, NICHOLAS BELFIELD DENNIS, Ph.D., of Sandakan, B.N.B., District Judge and Protector of Chinese, aged 62 years.

THE

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVALS OF MAIL.

The French mail of the 2nd November arrived, per M. M. steamer *Oceanien*, on the 3rd December (30 days); and the German mail of the 23rd October arrived, per N. D. L. steamer *Prinz Heinrich*, on the 4th December (42 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Viceroy Liu Kung-yi has ordered the present Taotai of Shanghai to remain at his post until the arrival of a successor next year.

An attempt was made last Sunday at Tientsin to explode the East Arsenal. The two Chinese who undertook the task only succeeded, however, in blowing themselves up.

It is stated from Shanghai that all the foreign warships on the Yangtze dressed ship and fired salutes in honour of the Empress Dowager's birthday on the 1st instant.

According to a native telegram received in Shanghai from Peking on the 3rd inst., the Foreign Ministers and Chinese peace-negotiators met that day to examine one another's credentials.

A correspondent of the *Jinmin* says that Russia is increasing her military strength in Corea, and that she is now engaged constructing a fort at Masampo, the work being pushed on with all possible rapidity.

Early in the week the Empress Dowager was reported to have consented to the Emperor's return to Peking. The latest news is that the Imperial Court is preparing to leave Hsianfu, very probably for Wuchang.

A correspondent writes to the *N.-C. Daily News* from Weihaiwei that piracy is very bad in that part of the Yellow Sea, and though boats and men belonging to the British territory are suffering, the navy do not seem to be taking any steps to repress it.

At a meeting of the Consular Body at Shanghai on the 28th ult. it was decided to publish a prohibition of the importation of articles which may be used in the manufacture of war material. Mr. Odagari, the Japanese Consul, however, under instructions from his Government, has withdrawn his name from the list of Consuls signing the proclamation.

The harbour works at Vladivostok, especially the repair of the Tsarevitch Nicholas dock, and the construction of two new dry-docks, having a length of about 700 feet, are being actively pushed forward. It has also been decided to build two ship-building yards for the construction of ships up to 3,000 tons. The Minister of Marine has further resolved to increase the number of docks in the Baltic ports, beginning with Reval.

The U. S. Minister at Peking, Mr. Conger has cabled to Washington that the German and English ambassadors are not opposed to a modification of the punitive and indemnity clauses of the Peking agreement. Later he cables that the Ministers accept a modification, and he expects negotiations to open next week.

The last issue to hand of the *P. & T. Times* gives, on the authority of "a well informed Chinese," the remarkable story that the Heir Apparent of China is not Prince Tuan's son at all, but the Empress Dowager's, and that he was secretly given over to Tuan's charge in infancy. The story is stated to have come originally from a friendly eunuch, who used to visit a Christian bookseller connected with one of the Peking missions.

Gloomy news arrived from Tientsin on the 4th inst. Placards predicting an outbreak are said to be posted over the Native City, and a prominent Chinaman of the place urges the Allies to prepare for trouble during the winter, warning them at the same time to desist from the punitive expeditions into the interior. Count von Waldersee, however, reported last week that the allied expeditions were gradually accomplishing the work of pacification.

A Washington telegram of the 1st ult. states that Mr. Hay had telegraphed to Mr. Rockhill, the United States commissioner in China, notifying him of his appointment to the post of councillor to the American Legation in Peking and directing him to proceed at once from Shanghai to Peking to assist Mr. Conger in that capacity in the negotiations for a final settlement. It had been intended to appoint Mr. Rockhill and Major-General Wilson fellow-commissioners with Mr. Conger to conduct the negotiations, but the Government abandoned this purpose because it appeared that no other Power intended to appoint commissioners.

It appears that the paragraph in our Shanghai telegram which appeared in our issue of last week about Huai Ta-pu, the recently promoted Manchu President of the Board of Rites, should have read as follows:—"Huai Ta-pu is reported dead while proceeding to Hsianfu." The death is stated in a Taiyuanfu telegram to Shanghai to have occurred on the 25th ult. in a small town in Shansi. Huai Ta-pu was going to Hsianfu to take up his new post. It was Huai Ta-pu who tried to prevent a reform memorial of one of his secretaries, Wang Chao, from getting to the Emperor in 1898, and was cashiered for his pains. Huai Ta-pu and Kang Yi, by their exertions, enabled the *coup d'état* to be so swift and successful.

President McKinley in his message to Congress says that friendly relations between the United States and Great Britain continue. The need of a definite demarcation of the Alaskan boundary is emphasized. Full punishment of culprits in China is demanded. Compensation, partly payable by increased guarantees of the security of foreign rights and the opening of China to the commerce of the world is suggested. The message declares that the influence of Japan, as a factor in promoting the general interests of peace and order and of fair commerce, cannot be over-estimated. The President in the message defines the programme of the United States in the Philippine Islands as the upbuilding of an enduring and self-administering community.

THE DRIFT OF EVENTS IN CHINA.

(Daily Press, 6th December.)

The position in China seems still to be drifting steadily from bad to worse. This is to be ascribed to several circumstances, not the least of which is the mistaken action of the foreign Powers, in which we are sorry to say Great Britain has been the worst offender. Our latest advices tell us of continually increasing disorder everywhere throughout the empire, and of the growing process of disruption within. It is apt to be forgotten that the movement of the Court to Hsian is not the outcome of mere chance, nor to be attributed entirely to the action of the Powers in the capture of Peking. More than a year ago the clique which the Dowager has selected as her advisers made no secret of their desire that the seat of government should be removed to that distant and inaccessible city; and the reason given was that thereby the Imperial Court would be removed from foreign pressure, and the reactionary party would have full scope to put in practice its intentions of ruling the state in its own peculiar manner. That such a course must of itself result in the break-up of the Empire was pointed out at the time, but of course, though warned in time, the Legations were above obtaining information or taking advice from any external sources outside their own Legations or the precincts of the Superintendency of Foreign Customs. That the Superintendency was really the worst informed organisation in China has been made clear by recent events, and by none more than the ignorance of any movement being on foot displayed by Sir ROBERT HART himself, who of all residents in Peking was the most unconscious of danger to life or property; and the curious result of all this has been that it is to this source that the principal Powers in their own ignorance have in this last hour of trouble found themselves applying for information and advice. This is, however, probably the least of the accumulating evils of the moment. It was pointed out at the time that this projected movement of the Court to the remote recesses of the Empire could have but one practical result, and that was the loosening of the reins of government, already well advanced by the growing weakness of the central power since the Taiping Rebellion. The recent insurrectionary movement in the Kwang provinces, temporarily scotched by the Provincial authorities, is only a solitary instance of what is going on throughout the Empire, and what has been distinctly advanced by the erroneous policy of the British Government. This by its mistaken, though we are willing to believe well intended, plan of reducing interference to a minimum, has really been fostering the elements of disorder. It is long since we pointed out the ill effects of permitting the Central and Southern provinces to be drained of their resources under our very eyes, in order to supply the demands of the reactionaries of the capital. The provincial administrations, who would have been only too happy of the excuse that the despatch of men and funds was forbidden by England and Germany, were on the contrary given plainly to understand that they were not to look to the Powers in case they should incur the displeasure on the reactionary party; and in fact every step that a government sincerely anxious to advance the adherents of the Empress Dowager's clique could take, was taken under the influence of the advisers in whose hands the British Government had unwisely placed itself. The folly of this course is now becoming

serious, and from all the provinces we hear the same complaints from the people of the presence of local terrorism, and from the officials of the absence of funds to keep within bounds the elements of disorder. Along the coast piracy is reviving, and the peaceful trading junk finds itself at the mercy of the robbers, who, if they do not plunder direct, levy exactions under the name of safe escort. Reports from the coast of Shantung and Kiangsu, as well as throughout the Chusan Islands, all confirm this position of affairs. On shore it is no better; Shantung, Kiangsu, Kiangsi and the Hukwang are all more or less in disorder. The news which we published yesterday morning from Shanghai reveals a most dangerous state of affairs at Tientsin once more. Even from Chekiang, one of the wealthiest as well as generally the most orderly of the whole of the eighteen provinces, we hear similar complaints. In the Ningpo and Chusan districts the peacefully disposed have to go about armed; and robbery and housebreaking, generally accompanied with violence, are of daily occurrence. Complaints made to the authorities meet with no success, as the officials complain that their treasuries are denuded, and they have no means to pay the troops, who take this way of making up for the absence of wages. The state of the Liang Kwang is known to our readers, and everywhere throughout the Empire the same tale of unrest and disquiet reaches our ears. Now, as we pointed out at the beginning, much of this disorder might have been avoided by the presence of a little common-sense. The great provincial officers were then on our side; but, our Government acting as it has under false and treacherous advice, there is too good reason to believe that their good feelings have been outraged, and that we may have to see with the return of spring the Empire in a blaze of insurrection from north to south. The blood of the Chinese general stagnates during the cold weather, and it requires the invigorating effects of the warmth of the early summer to thaw it sufficiently. Once in circulation, from their very numbers the mildest become dangerous. Even amongst the Chinese themselves after the occupation of Peking there was a returning feeling of confidence, but that is being everywhere succeeded by a returning appreciation of danger, and unless some policy be early decided on, we fear that events will drift still further into the open sea of disruption.

HONOURING THE EMPRESS DOWAGER.

(Daily Press, 5th December.)

Part of the prediction contained in this column on the 29th ultimo bids fair to come true with a rapidity and completeness no less startling than humiliating. Commenting on the divergent interests and varied aims of the Treaty Powers in China at the present time, we foreshadowed an inglorious peace following on disgraceful concessions, in which the return of the blood-stained EMPRESS-DOWAGER and her infamous tools to power would occupy the most prominent place. In yesterday's issue we published a telegram from Shanghai, which stated that "all the foreign warships on the Yangtze 'dressed ship and fired salutes in honour 'of the EMPRESS-DOWAGER's birthday.' We most sincerely hope that our correspondent was misinformed, that he was made the victim of a practical joke, even that he has lied to play one off on us: anything rather than that such a statement should be verified. If it indeed be true, then great blame is attachable somewhere. Perhaps somebody has blundered again,

and one man-of-war setting the example, the rest, sheep-like, have stupidly followed suit. We do not like to think—when it is a moot point in the minds of right-thinking people whether the EMPRESS-DOWAGER would not be hanged without ceremony if her punishment were made to fit her many crimes—that any of the Foreign Representatives could so far forget what is due to their flags as to thus drag them through the Celestial slush. It surely cannot be that the Governments of civilised Powers could so soon forget the horrible crimes and outrages committed on their subjects and citizens by order of this base and brutal woman as to authorise such a compliment to be paid to such an object! Those guns would be—we still hope they are not—defiled, those ships polluted, which fired such a salute. The act would be an outrage on civilisation, an insult to the murdered victims whose wrongs are still but partly avenged. Have national jealousies and electioneering needs brought us so low as this? Is this the outcome of all the fiery indignation which but a few weeks ago found vent in the Press of every European country and throughout the Great American Republic? What could have brought about such a change, the historian of the future would ask? What indeed! Self interest, sordid jealousy, morbid sympathy with assassins and ravishers, arrant cowardice, or shameless indifference to the sufferings of kin? Some of these motives, none less unworthy, must have dictated such abasement if accomplished. We cling with despairing tenacity to the hope that our informant was misled, for to think otherwise would be to dull our faith in humankind, to compel us to regard all Governments as void of self-respect, and our statesmen as so steeped in the dirt of diplomacy as to be insensible to honourable or manly feeling. Surely at this time, on the very threshold of the twentieth century of the Christian era, they are not so degraded as voluntarily to proffer honour where nothing but indignation and contempt are due. We cannot, we will not believe it. It must be a grievous and ghastly hoax.

THE BLAKE PIER.

(Daily Press, 1st December.)

The opening to public traffic by His Excellency the GOVERNOR on Thursday afternoon of the new Pier was an event of some little importance in local chronicles. The pier is the first that has been built on the site, but at the same time it replaces the old Pedder's Wharf, so long familiar to the public, which was close to the Hongkong Hotel. This wharf was built of wood and had been more than once renewed. Always an inadequate landing-place for the centre of the city of Victoria, it was also always more or less of an eyesore, being a rough erection with a somewhat ragged match on its shore end. It was called Pedder's Wharf presumably because it stood at the foot of Pedder's Street, and this very central but short thoroughfare was named after a former Harbour Master, Captain PEDDER. Now that the street has been lengthened and a new pier erected at its termination there was, of course, no reason why the old Harbour Master's name should be perpetuated in connection with it, more especially as the new wharf at the termination of Ice House Street has been dubbed New Pedder's Wharf. His Excellency the GOVERNOR therefore could see no objection to giving his own name to the new pier, which will accordingly be known as Blake Pier. The pier is undoubtedly a great improvement on

all previous landing stages constructed here, but it is certainly hardly worthy, in its present condition, of this great port. Sir HENRY BLAKE has evidently recognised this fact, for in the course of his speech at the opening ceremony he promised to have provision made for the accommodation—shelter and rest—of the passengers using it. He said he thought the pier should have a roof, in order to give shelter in wet weather; and he might have added also from the fierce rays of the sun in summer. The public landing stages at Colombo, Penang, and Singapore are all roofed over to their full extent, and certainly Blake Pier should afford protection from sun and rain to those using it. We are quite ready to admit that here we have to consider the typhoons which periodically play havoc with all structures that oppose resistance to the wind, especially when situated near the water. It is possible that it may be found inadvisable to roof the whole structure or even to cover it with anything more substantial than a mat roof. If this should prove to be the case, however, we hope that something more tasteful than the ragged-looking mat-sheds which usually disfigure our wharves may be erected on Blake Pier, and that the central city landing-stage may be made a credit and not a reproach to the port.

The announcement made by the Governor of his intentions with regard to the Clock Tower was received with general satisfaction. He said:—"I am glad to hear from the Director of Public Works that the timely precaution has been taken to so arrange the foundations that in time to come the Clock Tower may be erected at the base of the pier. I hope that by next year I shall be able to include in the Estimates a sum to provide for the removal of the Clock Tower from its present position, where it is a serious obstruction to traffic, and its replacement at the base of this pier." When the Clock Tower was erected, in 1862, nearly forty years ago, the traffic was not a fifth of what it now is, not a single jinricksha existed in the Colony, bicycles were unknown, and vehicular traffic was confined to the few traps and carriages in which the residents were wont in the evening to tool out on the Shaikiwan Road. The tower then as now filled up the greater half of the space at the junction of the thoroughfare with Queen's Road, but there was never much chance of collisions in those days, when the only noise of traffic arose from the thud of the chair-coolies' feet as they carried the *taipans* down to their offices. Since the introduction of jinrickshas and bicycles and the enormous increase of pedestrian traffic, collisions have become constant in this busy portion of the city, and the time has indeed fully arrived when the Clock Tower should be moved forward. It was originally erected by public subscription, and the clock was presented by Messrs. DOUGLAS LAPRAIR & Co. The Tower never was exactly a "thing of beauty," though it is not an ugly structure, and it is so hemmed in by lofty buildings as to be more or less obscured from view. On the new site prepared for it at the foot of Blake Pier, it will stand out in relief, for it will project in front of the Praya, and be visible for miles along the water face. We trust, however, that the new Clock Tower will be better proportioned than the original, more imposing, and more in keeping with the new surroundings. It should be not less than 175 feet in height and should be built of granite from base to summit. The faces of the clock should also be larger, and it will, we trust, be illuminated by electricity. The clock will then be what it was originally designed to be, and was for many

years—a boon to the residents and to the shipping alike. It would be a great pity to set up anything that was not both useful and ornamental on such a site. We have not much to boast of architecturally, and a splendid opportunity now occurs to mark the centre of Victoria by a really imposing and beautiful Tower, which would point the way and give the time to all arriving on our shores. The Government were never in so good a position to spend a little money on the adornment and convenience of the city. They will have a largely increased revenue during the current year and the sale of land goes on merrily. Sir HENRY BLAKE is therefore most fully justified in carrying out this much needed improvement, and we trust that he will proceed to inaugurate it without any more delay than is necessary to decide on the plans for the new tower.

WHAT THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY HAS DONE.

(Daily Press, 3rd December.)

English and other critics of the Trans-Siberian Railway Lines are apt to dwell on its faulty and inadequate construction and its insufficiency for the work which it is already called upon to do. They often speak of it as if it were a failure, commercially and strategically, and had disappointed the expectations which were entertained about it. An excellent corrective for such views and statements will be found in the November number of the *Monthly Review*, which contains an article called "The Trans-Siberian-Manchurian Railway," by Mr. A. R. COLQUHOUN. The writer alludes to the cavillers and does not think their criticisms will cut Russia to the heart. Russia, he says, "does not play to the gallery of Europe; she knows what she wants and usually gets it, though her way of doing so may be unlike ours under similar circumstances." He goes on to say of Russia's aims in constructing the line:—"Her chief object was 'not to be able, as many people seem to imagine, to pour so many thousand men across Asia every day.' She flung 'the line, in advance of the settlers, across 'Siberia as rapidly as possible—with incredible rapidity—on much the same principles that lines have been pushed across 'great sections of the United States. And her 'action was justified. As soon as the line 'could stand traffic at all it was crowded, 'settlers poured in and townships sprang up 'on every side. Large districts were portioned 'out, irrigation and draining on a large 'scale were begun, and along the route, 'before so desolate, life and energy came 'into being. One of the greatest difficulties 'of the Trans-Siberian Railway solved itself, 'and is still in process of solution, as it 'goes along. The line has no longer, except 'in a few tracts, to run through empty 'desert.' The extent to which settling in Siberia has been affected is shown by the immigration figures, which in 1893 were 61,435 and in 1899 233,981. During the seven years nineteen million acres of State lands have become immigration lots, five-sevenths already in occupation. Since 1887 a million men have entered Siberia; last May 10,000 were awaiting transport at Cheliabinsk, and large numbers are being brought by sea monthly from Odessa to Vladivostok. These, Mr. COLQUHOUN says, are no unworthy results for a "strategical railway" scarce nine years old. The great object being to get the line working as soon as possible, careful construction has been so far neglected in favour of speed. But a large proportion of the line is being relaid, ballasted, and improved. The method is doubtless an expen-

sive one, but Russia can point to results gained by a rapid laying of the single track. As Mr. COLQUHOUN points out, the Canadian Pacific Railway is still in course of perfecting, and in the United States lines are being made permanent in the same way. During three months last year there were carried on the Western and Central sections of the line passengers to the number of 1,075,000 and 40,759,000 *pounds* of goods. The corresponding figures for three months in 1895 were 211,000 passengers and 3,560,000 *pounds* of goods. It must of course be admitted that commercially the line will not pay probably for a long time, and that its possibilities cannot be fulfilled until the track is not only finished, but to a large extent relaid. But, says the writer whom we have quoted, "the Russians probably consider the settling up of Siberia as a sufficient return for their outlay without any great immediate commercial return; for it must be remembered that Siberia is no barren desert, but is full of natural resources." There are not wanting prophets to foretell the days when Siberia will rival the Rand, and the gold export already, in spite of deterrent regulations, unscientific methods, and absence of appliances, exceeds £5,000,000 per annum. Other metals and precious stones are plentiful. Forests abound and vast areas of virgin soil. The advantages of getting immigrants to move into so promising a land are undeniable. Russia therefore in hastening the progress of the line even at a much increased ultimate cost of construction is showing great thought for the future—provided that she can bear the heavy outlay now and for some years to come. There are those who doubt this, but Russia is not yet at the end of her resources. Looking at the great railway enterprise dispassionately apart from any questions of international policy involved, Englishmen cannot but be struck with admiration for the minds which planned it and put it into such rapid execution.

THE CASE OF KING LIEN-SHAN.

(Daily Press, 4th December.)

The letter from our correspondent "X," which appears in another column, calls attention once more to the case of KING LIEN-SHAN, which excited considerable interest here last February and March. It will be remembered that several letters and articles appeared in the local Press, commenting on the action of the Portuguese authorities at Macao, and that in consequence the Portuguese Consul-General, Senhor A. G. ROMANO, made a statement to a representative of this paper. Senhor ROMANO then pointed out that KING LIEN-SHAN was only detained at Monte Fort, not in jail; that he had only to await the arrival of instructions from Lisbon and the arrival of documents from the Chinese authorities supporting the charge of embezzlement; and that if it should appear that the charge was trumped up to enable the Chinese Government to get possession of the person of a Reformer, KING would be liberated. But as our correspondent says, the ordinary period of detention passed; months passed, and the prisoner still remained. Governor GALHARDO went away and left him in prison. In the interval between his departure and the arrival of the new Governor at Macao, the case got out of the court, and the tribunal's report was submitted to the Council temporarily governing, which did not see fit to release KING and so referred the case and all the documents to Lisbon. Then Senhor HORTA e COSTA arrived in Macao; but KING

still remains at Monte Fort. Now it is not alleged that he suffers any hardships—apart from such as are inevitable in the detention of an old man, infirm in health, in confinement and away from his family. But the case has dragged on for nearly ten months now, and the sympathy of foreign residents in China, "and indeed," as our correspondent writes, "of all friends of justice," cannot be withheld from the unfortunate prisoner, who is known to be obnoxious to the reactionary party of China for reasons far other than his alleged offence at Shanghai. The Portuguese Government, we feel convinced, is unaware of the injustice which it is committing; but the wrong to KING LIEN-SHAN is all the same as if it were done wittingly. A decision in this long drawn-out case would give general satisfaction, and the Governor of Macao has a chance of doing a service both to Macao and to the mother-country if any action of his should hasten the event.

THE CHINA ASSOCIATION AND THE CHINA LEAGUE.

(Daily Press, 7th December.)

In the new publication of the China Association, to which we have already referred briefly, the Appendix which deals with the then proposed and now existent China League will be read with interest. The discussion at a meeting of the General Committee of the Association in London on the 7th June last concerned what Sir E. ACROYD termed one of the most important questions ever submitted to the Committee. This question was the project for the expansion of the Association. The Hon. Sec., Mr. R. S. GUNDEY, explained that, the necessity of instructing the electorate concerning China being present to the minds of many and having more than once been urged on the Association by Mr. YERBURGH, the concrete proposition before the Committee had resulted. He went on to say that, though the advice of the Association had been willingly received by the Foreign Office when the matter lay within its power as a Department, when it came to questions of high policy the Association failed. Such questions were Government questions, and the Government would not move without a mandate from the electorate. The Chairman, Mr. W. KESWICK, also thought the Association an unsuitable body for the education of the electorate. He held that a body aiming at educating public opinion, and thus by means of the electors influencing the Government on Chinese questions, should be Parliamentary, while the China Association would do well by retaining its individuality and continuing to supply information as hitherto to the Government Departments. This view was upheld by a large majority of the Committee. Sir RICHARD RENNIE, who queried the influence of the Association with the Foreign Office, drew a reply from Mr. GUNDEY, who pointed to various matters on which the influence of the Association had led to good results in the shape of concessions from China in the question of freedom of trade, opening of Treaty Ports, the appointment of a Commercial Attaché, etc. Mr. G. JAMIESON agreed with Mr. GUNDEY that the Association had done much, but thought it could do more. He wished to see the proposal for expansion carried; or at least, if that was not possible, that the answer sent should be sympathetic and offer to co-operate with any separate organisation started with the object of instructing the electorate. Before putting the proposal to the vote, the Chairman said it would be understood that this sympathy and assistance would be

extended to a movement inaugurated with the objects in view. The meeting then supported the position taken by their Chairman and the Secretary and negatived the proposal to expand the Association. The idea prevailed that the suggested expansion would cut at the root of the Association's former usefulness from its connection with the Foreign Office. Mr. D. REID, indeed, thought that it would alienate the active voluntary efforts of many members both at home and in the East. Sir CECIL SMITH deprecated the loss of the friendly and even confidential relations established with the Foreign Office which would follow from the change of the Association's scope. By expansion the Association would lose, not gain, influence in official quarters. It was in fact strongly felt by most of those present that the suggested change would abolish in its present form a very useful body, substituting for it a very necessary one, which, however, could not do the same work. It cannot be doubted, we think, that the Association acted for the best in refusing to expand. The result of its action has been that a China League has been founded to carry on the task of bringing the country and, through it, the Government to a sense of their ignorance on Chinese affairs; while the Association is free to carry on vigorously its invaluable, if unostentatious, work in connection with the Foreign Office. Two good instruments are better than one, especially when they are used to cope with difficulties such as confront those who aim at bringing the people of England to a sense of what they run the risk of losing in the Far East.

THE CRISIS: TELEGRAMS.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS.]

SHANGHAI, 2nd December, 8.4 p.m.

Mr. Detring has been appointed Commissioner of Customs in succession to Mr. Drew.

Much disgust has been excited at Tientsin by Sheng's attempt to reopen the telegraph service. There is obvious danger in allowing a body of Chinese experts to be spying and reporting military movements and delaying messages again. The present European service is entirely satisfactory.

The Japanese Concession at Tientsin has been enlarged from the Peiho River to the city wall, nearly a square mile. The Japanese are now demolishing the city wall and raising their own Extension.

The Peiho is expected to close on the 15th inst.

There is a rumour here to-day that the Empress Dowager has consented to the Emperor's return to Peking.

Hsi Liang, Governor of Shansi, sends an urgent message to Chang Chih-tung, requesting men, arms, and munitions, to prevent the Allies from entering Shansi.

Orders from Hsianfu have reached Chang Chih-tung, stopping him from sending further supplies to Shensi.

SHANGHAI, 3rd December, 8.10 p.m.

A native telegram from Peking states that the Foreign Ministers and Chinese peace negotiators met to-day to examine one another's credentials.

Admiral Seymour returned here to-day. He is satisfied with the result of his visit to the Viceroy.

All the foreign warships on the Yangtze dressed ship and fired salutes in honour of the Empress Dowager's birthday on the 1st inst.

SHANGHAI, 4th December, 10.5 a.m.

Placards predicting an outbreak are appearing in Tientsin Native City. Every effort is being made to trace their origin.

A prominent Chinese at Tientsin urges the Allies to prepare for trouble in the winter, and to desist from the small punitive expeditions into the interior.

An Edict reporting the arrest of Prince Tuan and Yu Hsien proves to be spurious.

On Sunday, the 2nd instant, two Chinese attempted to explode the East Arsenal, Tientsin, but only succeeded in killing themselves.

SHANGHAI, 4th December, 8 p.m.

An Imperial Decree issued, yesterday orders Tung Fuhsiang to disband fifty-five hundred troops and to proceed to Kansu with the remainder of his forces to guard that province. The Decree also cashiers Tung Fuhsiang, as far as rank and titles are concerned, but allows him to retain his post.

A Russian placard at Newchwang orders all native land-holders to bring their titles for verification and to pay three per cent. land-tax.

A resumption of the Triad rebellion is expected here.

SHANGHAI, 6th December, 8.25 p.m.

Liu Kung-yi has ordered the present Taotai to remain at Shanghai until the arrival of a successor next year.

It is reported on good authority that the Chinese Court is preparing for an early departure from Hsianfu. Very probably the Imperial party is coming to Wuchang.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

On Thursday afternoon, the 7th inst., a meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held. The President (the Hon. R. D. Ormsby, Director of Public Works) occupied the chair, and there were also present the Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G. (Captain Superintendent of Police), Dr. Bell (Acting Principal Civil Medical Officer), Major Brown, R.A.M.C., Mr. J. McKie, Dr. Hartigan, Mr. E. Osborne, Dr. F. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. Fung Wa Chuen, and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary).

THE MALARIAL MOSQUITO.

Dr. HARTIGAN, pursuant to notice, moved:— "That the Government be requested to detail a subordinate officer to be specially instructed in the manner of recognising and dealing with anopheles pools, and that such officer be directed to report periodically to this Board the position and condition of these pools, and to carry out such orders as the Board may give, for the purpose of lessening the prevalence of malarial fever in certain portions of this Colony." He said— Although we may not all be prepared to endorse the theory enunciated by the latest school of malarial enthusiasts, who hold that where there are no mosquitoes there can be no malarial fever, still the greatest sceptic or most doctrinaire pseudo-scientific layman must admit that recent research, in places so far apart as West Africa, Italy, Cuba (to which we must now add Hongkong), has completely proved the connection between infected anopheles and subsequent outbreaks of malarial fever in persons bitten by them. It is consequently incumbent on us as the Sanitary Authority of Hongkong to endeavour to stamp out by every means in our power these dangerous pests. Fortunately the means of dealing with anopheles is both simple and inexpensive, but their very simplicity gives rise to the danger of the methods being neglected or undervalued. To be effective the treatment must be, to use a phrase my countrymen on the Board will understand, continued at regular intervals, and it is for this reason, that responsibility should rest on one person. Drs. Thomson and Young, who are now working on this subject, are willing to give the Board every assistance, and I may state that their further researches in Hongkong and the New Territory confirm the accuracy of the anopheles theory as regards this colony. It may be objected that it would be impossible for one man to supervise

the whole colony, but this is a matter of detail into which I have purposely not entered, as, should my motion be carried and the Government accede to our request, the choice of an officer, the districts to which he should pay special attention, and the general direction of his work, can very well be left to the good sense and discretion of the President and Medical Officer of Health. The Vice President has, I notice, minuted that this is a matter for the Medical Department. I should be sorry to believe that Mr. May, who has proved himself during many years such an active and efficient member of this Board, and whose opinion naturally carries great weight, is as ignorant of Sanitation as his minute implies. I cannot help thinking that he has been misled by the expression "treatment of anopheles pools," as of course *treatment* is always the prerogative of the Medical Department, but the *prevention* of disease is the first and most important duty of a Sanitary Board, and if dealing with anopheles is to be handed over to the Medical Department, the P.C.M.O. should also be asked to undertake the collection and decimation of rats, the destruction or disinfection of contaminated clothing, and the cleansing or demolition of houses harbouring the plague bacillus or contagion of small-pox. It must be distinctly understood that the object of my proposal is for the purpose of dealing with and eradicating the anopheles pools only, this course being, as I said, simple, inexpensive and effective; but I by no means wish to underrate or set aside those larger measures for getting rid of sub-soil water, or training nullahs, or afforestation, all of which are most necessary and would prove extremely beneficial to the health of the colony, but which, since they entail a considerable outlay, require careful consideration and much time for their completion. Meanwhile I propose to carry out measures which have been found effective elsewhere and will, I believe, convert many houses which are now practically fever-dens into healthy habitations, and open up numerous sites which, having now an unenviable reputation, are lying waste, notwithstanding the large growing want of increased house accommodation. Closely allied to this subject is that of the skilled supervision of the various nullahs in the colony. Both the quite recently built nullahs on Kennedy and McDonnell Roads, and the older "trained" ravines in the West district, require attention, being, with their luxuriant foliage, most rural and artistic, but a perfect paradise for mosquitoes, with the exception of those running through the Richmond Park, which have lately been cleared. I take it that so long as the masonry is in order the P.W.D. is satisfied, but not so the sanitarian, and here it seems to me the duties of the Sanitary Board and Public Works overlap. The Sanitary Surveyor and proposed inspector should be able to deal with the difficulty. The latter office will be no sinecure and the work will certainly improve the health of the colony.

Mr. OSBORNE thought that, whatever the views of the Board might be, there could be no harm in going to some expense to test the correctness or otherwise of the proposal put before the Board.

Dr. BELL said he rose to make an explanation, one which he was sorry he had had no opportunity of already making. This matter had been engaging the attention of the Government for some months past, as was also the question of getting someone to do the work of the medical officer told off to do the work. Shortly, Dr. Thomson had been commissioned to act as Medical Officer of Health for mosquitoes. Dr. Thomson was well known as a specialist in mosquitoes, and would make a special study of the whole matter and send in his reports—special reports, monthly reports, weekly reports, and so on—to the Government. An account of his investigations would no doubt be also sent to the Sanitary Board. As to Dr. Hartigan's proposal, that gentleman had dilated on the cheapness of the method outlined by him. Personally he did not believe in cheapness. The mosquito bill, he was convinced, was going to cost money, but then money should be spent. The scheme was an extensive one, and he expected they would have to exercise their patience for a time. It could not be expected that everything could be done immediately. It only remained for

them to put extra confidence in Dr. Thomson and to support his views. In view of this appointment of Dr. Thomson as special medical officer, he did not see the necessity for another man. The only difficulty now would be to get some one to do Dr. Thomson's work, and that difficulty, he had been led to understand, was almost over.

The Hon. F. H. MAY said that when he brought this matter before the Medical Department he had in his mind's eye whether or not it was only in the initial stage. The enquiry would be a very big one, and they had a lot to learn before they reached the final stage. As to the expense that would be entailed, he would cite one instance, the case of the Taipo Police Station, which was suffering severely from malaria. If any member of the Board had been to Taipo, he would know that in the vicinity of the police station there were acres and acres of paddy fields. These paddy fields were ideal breeding-places for mosquitoes, and to exterminate them would necessitate the covering-up and draining of these paddy fields—an operation that would run away with an enormous amount of money.

The PRESIDENT—Do you persist in your motion, Dr. Hartigan?

Dr. HARTIGAN replied that he did. Dealing with the one question of training these nullahs, he had it on the distinct authority of Dr. Young that to get rid of anopheles pools was a simple and inexpensive matter. It seemed to him that the appointment of Dr. Thomson as special medical officer was not required. His idea was that a Superintending Officer should be taught to recognise an anopheles pool and report its existence and situation to the Public Works Department, which could see to its filling up with cement or lime, attention being more particularly paid to such pools that existed close to European habitations. This other proposal meant procrastination. They should require to wait an indefinite period for Dr. Thomson's reports.

Dr. BELL—Excuse me, I said his reports would come in from time to time. Dr. Thomson will have complete control of everything. It will be entirely for him to say where mosquitoes breed, and directly he has got the place he will report on that fact, and it will devolve on either the Government or Public Works Department to carry out what he advises.

Dr. HARTIGAN said that after Dr. Bell's explanation he placed himself altogether in the hands of the Board in the matter of the motion advanced by him. He did not wish to press it on the Board if it was thought there was no necessity for it.

Mr. OSBORNE was of opinion that Dr. Hartigan's motion should stand. He thought the scheme laid down by Dr. Bell far too extensive to be carried out in their time, and Dr. Hartigan proposed a very simple and practical method of dealing with the question. It would be some time before Dr. Thomson would be at liberty, and what little they could do now should be done.

Dr. BELL—I have already told you that the scheme is practically finished; it only remains to get a man to do the other man's work. Inside of a month we shall have a skilled man at work. It is not a question of a lifetime. You will have the reports in the first or second week in January. I think, if the Government give you a skilled man, there is no necessity for having another.

The Hon. F. H. MAY—I understand that, supposing Dr. Thomson does find half-a-dozen of these pools, he will recommend that they be filled up, and they will be filled up.

Dr. BELL—When Dr. Thomson has any suggestions to make he will make them, but whether they will be carried out of course I cannot tell you.

Dr. CLARK presumed that since a European was to accompany Dr. Thomson in his visits to these pools, this man would see that all work was carried out in accordance with the views of Dr. Thomson. It was a very excellent scheme, and would enable the doctor to get the work done much more expeditiously than otherwise would have been the case.

The Hon. F. H. MAY said the whole matter had been taken up by the Government, and the Board had other matters to which it might better direct its attention. He begged to move as an amendment "that the Board ask the Go-

vernment that the reports of Dr. Thomson in the course of his investigations into the question of anopheles and his views on the treatment thereof should be forwarded from time to time for their information."

Dr. BELL seconded.

Dr. CLARK rose to a point of order. It seemed to him that the amendment was no amendment at all—merely an addition to the resolution.

Dr. HARTIGAN asked Mr May if he had any objection to adding it to the original resolution.

The Hon. F. H. MAY objected to this proposal, and maintained that the amendment was perfectly in order.

After some discussion the PRESIDENT ruled that the amendment was quite in order, and proceeded to put it to the meeting.

The vote resulted in the amendment being carried by a majority of one, five voting in its favour and four against.

The members in favour of the amendment were the President, the Hon. F. H. May, Dr. Bell, Major Brown, and Mr. Fung Wa Chuen.

NEW INFECTIOUS HOSPITAL IN KENNEDYTOWN:

THE MARKET QUESTION.

Dr. HARTIGAN, pursuant to notice, asked the following questions:—

(a.) Will the President lay before the Board plans of and reports on the new infectious hospital at Kennedytown, together with such other information thereon as may enable the Board to judge of its suitability for the purpose intended?

(b.) Will the President furnish a short statement as to what has been done, or is in hand, regarding the proposed extension of the Western Market, and the proposed Market at Kowloon?

The PRESIDENT, answering the first question, said—As President of this Board I have the custody of no plans or reports which are not equally open to any other member of the Board. As Director of Public Works I am not *ex-officio* President, and any plans or papers required from me as Director of Public Works should be asked for through the Hon. the Colonial Secretary. But on this occasion I am prepared to save time by replying. The plans asked for are for a building to be erected by a private and independent institution. I cannot lay them before the Board without express instruction from Government. The same remark applies to the reports which are contained in Colonial Office files.

The PRESIDENT, in replying to the second question, said—There is no proposal that I have heard of to extend the Western Market, consisting as it does of a number of badly arranged, badly constructed and insanitary buildings. It is proposed to build a new market on the reclaimed land in front of the Harbour Office, a site selected by a committee (on which three members of this Board served) especially appointed for the purpose by His Excellency the Governor. The plans for this new building are being prepared by the Public Works Department, in consultation with the Medical Officer of Health and the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, and will in due course be laid before the Board. As regards the proposed market for Kowloon, a committee was appointed by His Excellency the Governor to report on the subject and select a site. The preparation of the plans is now in hand. These plans will, in accordance with instructions, be laid before this Board in due course.

Dr. HARTIGAN—Can you give us any approximate time when these public works will be completed?

The PRESIDENT said that with regard to the Western Market foundations similar to those required for the New Law Courts would have to be put in, and he did not think the work could be completed in two years. With regard to the proposed market at Kowloon, as the proposal was only brought forward a couple of months ago it would be necessary to sanction a supplemental vote to get the work done next year. There would be no difficulty about the foundations of this market.

THE SANITARY IMPROVEMENT OF THE COLONY.

The Hon. F. H. MAY said that at the next meeting of the Board he proposed to ask the following question:—"What steps have the Board taken in answer to an invitation given to the Board in June last by direction of the Officer Administering the Government to

formulate a scheme of sanitary improvement in the colony."

THE KOWLOON WATER SUPPLY.

The following reply, dated December 3rd, from Government relative to the Kowloon water supply scheme was submitted:—

"In reply to your letter No. 176 of the 23rd ultimo, regarding the Kowloon water supply, I am directed to inform you that the details of the scheme will be published at an early date."

THE OUTBREAK OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE AT POKFULAM.

Having been directed by the Board to furnish a report as to the origin of the outbreak of foot and mouth disease at Pokfulam,

Mr. Ladds (Colonial Veterinary Surgeon) wrote:—"I am unable to trace the origin of the outbreak of foot and mouth disease at the Dairy Farm premises at Pokfulam, but may state that the disease has been endemic upon many parts of the mainland during the last three years, and knowing its infectious nature can only surmise that the contagion was carried to the farm either in food-stuffs or by infected clothing worn by some of the company's employees."

The following minutes were appended:—

Major Brown:—"Importation of fodder from and visits of employees to the infected districts could possibly be traced."

Dr. Hartigan:—"It would be well to prohibit importation of fodder from infected districts. I think further enquiries should be made and information obtained direct from the mainland, if necessary, through someone despatched to make enquiries."

Dr. Clark:—"Instruct the Secretary to enquire from the Dairy Farm Company where they obtain their fodder."

Dr. HARTIGAN said that in connection with this he might say that he had been told by a citizen who was well informed on these matters that numbers of cattle were landed in the colony without examination or supervision—that they were landed and Mr. Ladds knew nothing about them, and that consequently they could not be inspected. If that was true the colony was running a very great danger of infection. As far as he could learn certain cattle were landed, walked through the town, and infected some healthy cattle not very long ago—within the last two years. This was a matter more for the Police than for the Board. He gave the information for what it was worth.

Dr. CLARK—I think the Secretary might be instructed to enquire of the Dairy Farm whether they obtain their fodder from the mainland.

This was agreed to.

On the motion of the Hon. F. H. MAY, seconded by Dr. BELL, it was decided that the attention of Mr. Ladds be called to the statement that cattle are landed in the colony without undergoing examination, and that an explanation be asked for as to how this occurs, and that he should report on the matter.

THE INSPECTOR'S QUARTERS AT KENNEDYTOWN.

Correspondence was submitted relative to the quarters of the Inspector in charge of the Animal Depots at Kennedytown.

Mr. Ladds (Colonial Veterinary Surgeon) wrote on the 13th ult.:—"Referring to your letter of the 29th ult. respecting the Inspector's quarters at Kennedytown, I have the honour to report that after making many enquiries Mr. Watson finds that it is impossible to obtain suitable temporary quarters anywhere in the district near the scene of his duties. As it is absolutely necessary that the Inspector should reside close at hand to have any proper control or supervision over the Slaughter House and Animal Depots, I therefore beg to recommend that he be allowed to remain where he is at present for the reason that the ensuing season is not generally considered to be the worst for malaria, and should it be proved conclusively that the anopheles mosquito is the only source of malaria, the larvae of these insects can be very quickly killed off for the time being in the few pools in which they have at present been found at Kennedytown, but unless these pools are then filled up at once or, better still, drained, as long since recommended by Dr. Clark and myself, the anopheles will reappear in them directly any effort at killing them is relaxed. This I proved during the whole of last cool season, having treated the pools which they affected periodically, with the result that during the latter part of that time none could be found any-

where in the district, but directly the rainy season commenced they were soon back again and thoroughly re-established in their old quarters."

The following minutes were appended:—

The Hon. R. D. Ormsby:—"Send copy to Colonial Secretary and say I see no reason why Mr. Watson should not remain in quarters. Ask the C. V. S. to kindly explain how a natural stream or water can be drained. The usual meaning of draining is to remove all water from."

Mr. Ladds:—"In answer to the latter part of the President's minute, I beg to point out that in my letter of the 13th November I made no mention of draining the natural stream or water-course, by which I presume he means the nullah, which runs down the hill-side in front of the Inspector's quarters, but simply referred to the small pools which abound in the Kennedytown district, independent of the natural stream or water-course. I may further mention as an after-thought that, although Inspector Watson has failed to find suitable temporary quarters near the scene of his duties, perhaps one of the Government Villas at the Peak is available, and should it be thought desirable the Inspector might go there, retaining the allowance for conveyance expenses to and fro, and to assist in defraying the extra cost of living at the Peak, such as increase in servants' wages, fuel, etc. At present Mrs. Watson is in bed suffering from an attack of fever which she has had for nearly a week. For these reasons I beg to suggest that this minute be also referred to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary for the information and decision of His Excellency the Governor."

Dr. Hartigan:—"It is a most unusual proceeding for the President to say he sees no reason why Mr. Watson should not remain in his quarters, when the Board have decided otherwise. There seems to be no supervision of depôts at present."

Mr. McKie:—"Agree with Dr. Hartigan."

The Hon. F. H. MAY:—"This officer should not be allowed to reside at the Peak. I don't believe that no quarters are obtainable in Kennedytown."

The PRESIDENT, alluding to Dr. Hartigan's minute, said he really did not see why the President should not express an opinion as well as any other free man in the colony. If Inspector Watson liked to live at the quarters at Kennedytown he did not see why he should be interfered with. The other day he was down at Kennedytown and he discussed the matter with Inspector Watson for about half-an-hour. He himself was in good health, although he had previously suffered from fever, and his children were as healthy as any he had seen. His wife seemed to be fever-stricken, but when the man preferred to live in the quarters at Kennedytown to going to live in a flat at Kennedytown or at the Peak he should be allowed to live there.

After some little discussion it was decided, on the motion of the Hon. F. H. MAY, seconded by Dr. BELL, to recommend that Inspector Watson be allowed to remain in his quarters at Kennedytown during the cool season.

THE DISPOSAL OF THE CARCASSES OF CATTLE AND PIGS.

Correspondence was submitted relative to the disposal of the carcasses of cattle and pigs.

Mr. J. J. Bryan, Sanitary Surveyor, in a letter dated 3rd December, said:—"The only piece of available ground that I can find in the vicinity of the Cattle Market is the portion coloured red on the enclosed tracing, of which only about 2,000 square feet can be used, as the ground is rather marshy. I have had it cleared, the ground water diverted, and it is now ready for use. When I visited the present burial ground last Monday I found that a carcass of a pig had just been buried only one foot six inches below the surface of the ground. The stench all over the ground was abominable and led me to suppose that most of the other carcasses were buried at about the same depth. To avoid a recurrence of this in the new ground I am having two trenches dug, one for cattle six feet deep and one for sheep and pigs five feet deep. If the C. V. S. will notify me when these are filled I will have others prepared. I would suggest that in future all carcasses should be buried in lime. This ground is only

sufficient to last for about two months, or at the most three, and it therefore becomes imperative that the Board make other arrangements for the disposal of these carcasses. In my opinion, as previously stated, a crematorium for cattle would be found to be too expensive in working, and I would suggest that after the present ground is used, and pending the erection of a destructor, all condemned carcasses of animals should be taken out to sea and under proper supervision weighted and thrown overboard."

Dr. Hartigan minuted:—"Would it not be well to use lime over the old portion of the burial ground as well as over the new. Carrying carcasses to sea is ineffective and expensive. At least that was the general opinion when the experiment was tried in 1896 (?) at the Dairy Farm."

The Hon. R. D. Ormsby:—"I have written to England and Bombay for plans and estimates for a suitable crematorium for disposing of the carcasses of cattle and pigs, and a German firm are also going to send in a tender with plan. Before anything can be built I think we will have to resort to taking the carcasses out to sea."

Dr. HARTIGAN said that the place where these carcasses were being buried was getting in close proximity to the new infectious hospital, and that was one reason why he wanted to know where the infectious hospital was going to be placed.

Dr. CLARK thought the attention of the Government should be directed to the urgency of this matter. The waste land in the neighbourhood of the Cattle Depots had for years past been used for burying dead cattle and dead pigs, with the result that the soil was saturated with decomposing animals and was most offensive to the smell. On his suggestion a week or two ago the Sanitary Surveyor visited the spot and marked out an additional site for the interment of these carcasses, but he told him that would only be sufficient for three months. It would be within the recollection of the Board that in June, 1899, the Board recommended the erection of a refuse-destructor at Kennedytown and if it was intended that it should be used also for the destruction of these dead carcasses. It was used as an argument by Mr. Ladds for destroying these carcasses by fire instead of burning them that as soon as these carcasses were interred they were sometimes dug up by coolies, who sold them to shops. When some two months ago the Government replied to the Board saying they were not prepared to proceed with the erection of a refuse-destructor he recommended that they should ask the Government to put one up for the destruction of these dead carcasses alone. Since then he had made enquiries and had found that it would be extremely expensive to have a destructor for the destruction of carcasses of animals alone. In 1896 it cost them over \$150 to destroy the carcass of one cow which died of rinderpest. That was possibly more than it would have cost them if they had had a refuse-destructor, but he did not think it would cost much less than \$40 to \$50 for the necessary fuel to destroy a carcass in one of these cattle destructors. Under these circumstances he begged to move that the Board again direct the attention of the Government to the urgent necessity for a refuse-destructor at Kennedytown, so that they would be able to destroy the carcasses of animals in addition to dealing with the refuse of the city. In the letter covering that resolution the Secretary might point out that it would be more economical to do this than to erect a destructor for animals alone.

Mr. OSBORNE seconded.

The Hon. F. H. MAY said that this matter of a refuse-destructor was one of the sins of omission which had unjustly been laid to the charge of the Government. It had been many times before the Government. As a matter of fact he happened to know that the stumbling block was the unofficial members of the Council. It had been before the Public Works Committee more than once, and it had been invariably thrown out by the committee, and he believed that the reason was that this refuse-destructor which they had recommended from time to time was not put forward as a refuse-destructor for the whole of the city but only as an experiment by the Public Works Committee. They thought that if this one succeeded there would be various

other refuse-destructors wanted and they might be landed into very heavy expense. He believed that that was the difficulty. He thought that instead of passing the resolution of the Medical Officer of Health it would be a good thing to appoint a sub-committee of the Board to go into the question *de novo* and ascertain, supposing the refuse-destructors were a success, how many refuse-destructors would be required and what would be the total expense. It was possible they would find that they did not want as many destructors as some people thought. He was in favour of a refuse destructor. He thought their present system was a slovenly one—carrying the refuse out to sea and letting some of it drop over the side of the boat into the harbour.

Dr. CLARK having obtained the permission of the President to explain, said that this question of experiment had been raised before. He had previously pointed out that the only reason why it was necessary to experiment was that it was absolutely necessary in every city to ascertain how many cells were required to destroy the refuse of the city. That, of course, was because of the varied character of the refuse. In England there was a large quantity of cinders; in India the refuse was totally different than the refuse in this city. Personally he did not see any use in appointing a committee to investigate the question. They had an excellent report on the question by Mr. Crook, the late Surveyor, who recommended six cells to be created at Kennedytown, and where they had discovered what proportion of the refuse of the city these six cells would consume, they would be in a position to-day how many more cells would be required—the total number required would probably be 10 but they might only require 8 and on the other hand they might need 12 or even 14. In any case no Committee of investigation could do any good until the question of the combustibility of our city refuse is decided by actual experience.

Mr. OSBORNE, in seconding, said that he thought two destructors at the most would be all which would be required.

The PRESIDENT said that before putting this matter to the Board he might say that this matter had been before the Public Works Committee more than once. In defence of the unofficial members he must say that they were not responsible alone for throwing it out. He as chairman of the Public Works Committee was very uncertain indeed with regard to these refuse destructors. They had been a success in some places and a failure in others. They had collected an enormous mass of correspondence on the subject from India, Singapore, and elsewhere, and this was waiting to go before the Public Works Committee again when he got a reply from Bombay. With regard to what seemed to be the most useful and economical destructor to put up as an experiment he must say that Mr. Cook's proposal seemed to him to be a very costly experiment indeed. Mr. Crook proposed that they should spend \$60,000 to put a destructor at Kennedytown which would only deal with one-third of the refuse of the City. He did not mean to say it would cost three times that amount to deal with the whole of the refuse of the city, but Mr. Crook himself told the Public Works Committee that it would cost double that sum to deal with the total refuse of the city. He thought it would be a good thing to dump the refuse on to the barren territory on the other side of the harbour.

Dr. CLARK said that in view of the President's explanation he was prepared to withdraw his resolution. He merely wanted to ventilate the subject in view of the urgency of the question of the disposal of the carcasses of animals that die of disease or accident almost daily at Kennedytown.

The motion was accordingly withdrawn.

LIMEWASHING.

Dr. HARTIGAN asked if any prosecutions had been instituted lately against persons for neglecting lime-washing.

Dr. CLARK said: Yes. To some extent they had been in abeyance because the lime-washing inspector had been in hospital.

THE HEALTH OF THE COLONY.

The death rate for the colony for the week ended Nov. 17th was 28.3, against 25.8 for the previous week and 23 for the corresponding week last year. The death rate for the follow-

ing week was 40.2, against 17.0 for the corresponding week last year.

DEATHS IN MACAO.

The deaths in Macao for the week ended Nov. 18th numbered 47, and for the following week 43.

This was all the business.

THE CRISIS IN CHINA.

LOCAL MOVEMENTS.

The British transport *Uralna* arrived on the 30th ult. from Taku.

The British cruiser *Isis* arrived on the 30th ult. from Amoy.

The surveying ship *Waterwitch* arrived from Taipo on the 30th ult.

The British transports *India* and *Pentakota* left on the 1st inst. for Calcutta and the hospital-ship *Maine* for Bombay.

On the 3rd inst. the British transports *Lalpoora* and *Wardha* arrived from Taku and Weihaiwei respectively.

The U.S. despatch vessel *Zafiro* left on the 3rd inst. for Manila.

On the 4th inst. the British transport *Lalpoora* left for Calcutta and the hospital ship *Gwalior* for Bombay.

The French gunboat *Comète* left on the 4th inst. for Canton.

The British transport *Itaura* arrived on the 5th inst. from Shanghai.

The British transport *Wardha* left on the 5th inst. for Bombay.

The French cruiser *Descartes* left for Foo-chow.

The U.S. transport *Grant* left on the 6th inst.

The British transport *City of Cambridge* returned on the 6th inst. from Shanghai.

The German battleship *Weissenburg* arrived from Woosung.

The U. S. transport *Scindia* reached Hong-kong on the 6th from Cavite and went into dock.

THE KALGAN EXPEDITION.

The following remarks from the leading article in the *N.-C. Daily News* of the 3rd instant throws some light on the incomplete and rather mysterious telegram last week about a serious reverse to the German expedition to Kalgan:—

We get so little news of military movements (says our contemporary) that it would seem the censorship must be at work again. We have heard very little of the proceedings of Count York von Wartenburg, who was in command of the Kalgan expedition, and what we have heard has come principally through German sources. We heard that Count York, after accepting the surrender of Huailai, was deterred from proceeding to Hsuenhua because he heard that a force of 10,000 Chinese troops would oppose him there, and had sent back to Peking for reinforcements. It seemed impossible that any European commander should hesitate to attack 10,000 Chinese with 2,000 Europeans, and we were glad to get the subsequent news that Count York was marching on again without waiting for reinforcements. The Chinese, of course, made another strategic movement to the rear when they heard that the German expedition had started again. On the 27th ult. we heard that Count York had occupied Hsuenhua without fighting, and that he sent a flying column to harass the Chinese, who had come up with the Chinese General's rearguard and killed some thirty of them. Then came the news that the Germans had met with a serious reverse; our correspondent at Tientsin refers to it as an occurrence of which we were expected to have the particulars already, but nothing more than this has been made public here. Then we have the news published this morning that Count York was killed by charcoal fumes on the night of the 27th ult. Travellers in Mongolia in the winter, and men who go up on shooting expeditions, are always warned not to go to sleep with a charcoal stove in their room, and it is a really terrible thing that a distinguished soldier should be carried off thus ignominiously in the course of an almost bloodless campaign. It appears that Count von Walderssee, the Commander-in-Chief, was himself about to start through the Nankou Pass to see what the expedition was doing, but deferred his departure

from Peking, no doubt to make fresh arrangements in regard to the command of the expedition, when the news of Count York's death reached him. The news of this sad event will probably be circulated over China as a great victory for the Chinese, and some unfortunate wretch's head will be sent to the Empress Dowager as being that of the German commander.

NEW GOVERNOR OF CHEKIANG.

The removal of the Governor of Chekiang from his post by Imperial edict, and the appointment in his place of Yun Tsuyi, the present Provincial Treasurer, gives considerable satisfaction both to the Chinese and foreign officials in the Yangtze region, says the *Mercury*. Liu Shutang, the removed official, is old and has been very feeble in his rule for some time past. He allowed the proclamation ordering the extermination of foreigners to be posted in his jurisdiction, and afterwards had to withdraw it, but not before the evil had taken root, with the result that the Chuchow massacre followed. Latterly he has failed to keep the disorder reported on the sea-coast down, and generally he has been a thorn in the side of the authorities keeping order in these regions. His successor, on the other hand, has a good record for firmness and ability, and according to the reports of Chinese officials at Shanghai is certainly not intensely anti-foreign, to say the least. He is expected to put affairs right within his government in very short order.

THE MIAOTZE "RESCUE ARMY."

Referring to a Wuchang despatch published about two months ago in its columns reporting the arrival at Sianktan, Hunan, of some 5,000 Miaotze aboriginal troops who had been raised in Kweichow for the "rescue" of the Empress Dowager in the North, the *N.-C. Daily News* now quotes a second despatch to the effect that, owing to want of funds to pay these Miaotze troops as well as lack of supplies *en route*, this Miaotze brigade is still at Sianktan, having refused to march another step unless given their full dues. Of late the impatience of the aborigines has caused them to prey upon the country; and to stop them from doing so—they had hitherto maintained some discipline—the Governor of Hunan, Yu Lien-san, has been compelled to give the troops one-half of their pay, the remainder to be paid by the Governor of Kweichow, who sent them up North.

THE BLOCK IN PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

Letters from members on the staff of Viceroy Li Hung-chang lately received at Shanghai, says our morning contemporary there, unanimously declare that Prince Ching and Viceroy Li Hung-chang have not been able, so far, even to begin peace negotiations with the Foreign Ministers in Peking owing to the difficulty of performing some of the preliminary demands of the Powers before the negotiations can be allowed to commence. For instance, it is demanded that General Tung Fuhsiang must be executed first. Seeing the Court is at present within the toils of General Tung at Hsian it must be obvious to all that this demand would be impossible, under present circumstances, to perform satisfactorily. Another demand was that a Reform Government must be started immediately. This again is an impossibility just now, for with only one or two milk-and-water exceptions—otherwise they would never have succeeded in remaining in Court until now—all those now around the Throne are strong conservatives and bigoted reactionists. The difficulty in removing all these under present circumstances is evident enough to any person.

With reference to the enlargement of the Japanese Concession at Tientsin, a *N.-C. Daily News* Tientsin telegram of the 1st inst. says:—The Japanese Concession has been enlarged on the north as far as the South Gate of the native city. It is intended that part of the city wall shall be demolished, and the low ground filled in and made to connect with the city of Tientsin. Work has already commenced. The Extension to the Concession measures about 500,000 tsubo, or 2,000,000 square yards, or over 430 acres.

PUBLIC MEETING ON THE RELIEF OF TYPHOON SUFFERERS.

On Monday, 3rd inst., at noon, a meeting convened by His Excellency the Governor (Sir Henry Blake, G.C.M.G.) was held in the City Hall for the purpose of taking such measures as might be deemed necessary for the relief of the sufferers from the recent typhoon. His Excellency presided and was supported by Sir John Carrington, C. M. G. (Chief Justice), Sir Thomas Jackson, Viscount Suidale, the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, C. M. G. (Colonial Secretary), and the Hon. J. J. Keswick. There were also present Lady Blake, their Highnesses the Maharajahs Scindia of Gwalior and of Bikanir, the Bishop of Victoria (Dr. Hoare) the Rev. R. F. Cobbold, the Hon. R. M. Gray, the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, the Hon. Wei A Yuk, Dr. F. Clark, Messrs. E. Osborne, R. G. Shewan, H. N. Mody, P. Jordan, Fung Wah Chuen, Ho Fook, Lo Kin Ling, Li Pak, Li Yau Tsem, Lau Tsz Kong, Lau Yam Tsun, Lau Chu Pak, Au Yen Tin, Ho Lai Shang, Leung Pui Chi, and others.

His EXCELLENCY said—Your Highnesses, ladies and gentlemen: I have asked you to meet me here to-day for the purpose of considering what measures shall be taken to alleviate the distress caused by the typhoon of the 10th November. We all remember with what equanimity one saw the typhoon come hoisted on the 8th November, and even when the red ball was changed to black and the cone was changed to a drum people went about their business quite satisfied that one would have nothing more than perhaps a severe gale. The fishing boats left the harbour, and on looking out on the evening of the 9th I saw that while the black cone was hoisted still the junks were moored in their usual places off Yaumati and Mong-kok-tsui, and not collected in the shelters, as they would have been in the previous month after a similar warning. The fact was that nobody believed that we were going to have a bad typhoon in November. But as the evening closed in and the night wore on we realised that a fierce typhoon held us in its grip, and at daybreak next morning the minute guns of Her Majesty's ship *Sandpiper* told their tale of distress and were gallantly responded to by Her Majesty's ship *Otter*, which, ably handled by Commander Wilkin, saved the crew of the *Sandpiper* with the exception of one unfortunate man, only a few minutes before she sank at her moorings—(applause)—and the waves surging right up to and over the Kowloon godowns showed in what a furious sea the fleet of junks, hidden by the blanket of mist, were straining. When the typhoon was passed and launches could live, I went over that Yaumati shore and I shall never forget the scene of desolation that met my gaze. A mass of debris, consisting of shattered launches, junks, and boats, lined the shore. In that one night 20 launches and over 200 junks and boats were shattered, while ashore houses were blown down and mat-sheds utterly demolished. In that night in this harbour the police returns collected a few days afterwards showed that between 90 and 100 lives were lost, but that was not the full tale, for the Captain of one of the Canton boats saw sunk close by on the other side of Stonecutter's Island two junks with 20 people on board, not a soul of whom was saved nor have their bodies been recovered. That night was not without its gallant deeds there, and among those gallant deeds never was a case in which a hero met death more bravely than the Naval Yard Policeman Duncan, who, seeing two Chinese women in a sampan, which was being dashed against the wall of the Torpedo Depot at Kowloon, jumped into the sampan and in a vain attempt to save them perished with them. Immediately after my return from Yaumati I sent to the Chairman of the Tung Wha Hospital to ask what could be done to discover the people who had suffered through the loss of their boats, and I found that the Directors of the Tung Wha Hospital had already started on their errand of mercy two launches to assist the distressed and to recover the bodies of the drowned. (Applause). I asked these gentlemen to find out for me before we attempted to solicit subscriptions what actually had taken

place, the people who really were in distress and the number of boats that were lost. I believe they have done this and that Mr. Lo Kin Ting has at the present moment that list in his possession. It therefore remains for us to arrange to assist in subscribing a sufficient amount of money to relieve the distress of these poor people. I knew there would be no difficulty about the matter, for the European public of Hongkong are always generous in subscribing, and I am sure they will be equally generous in subscribing to alleviate the distress of the people who have suffered in our own colony. (Applause.) Outside the immediate vicinity of the harbour of Victoria, I find on enquiry that many lives and boats have been lost. I went down to Lantau, and I found that the day before the typhoon a fishing fleet of 17 junks with 87 souls on board left Tai-Ho, on the South of Lantau, and that of that number not one ever returned. Six people from a village to the east of Tai-Ho were lost and 17 junks and boats destroyed. In Mirs Bay at Sha-Tau-Kok, which I visited a few days ago, three people were drowned, and in a village close to Tai-po-hu 36 boats were entirely destroyed. In a fishing population the destruction of a man's boat means the destruction of his home, and there must be considerable distress which I have no doubt will be met and alleviated in a very short time by the subscriptions that I ask you and the public of Hongkong to give. I know that the Chinese community are always ready to help their people. No people on earth are more ready as far as I have seen. Up to the present they have seen that no person has died of starvation or felt any great want. To enable these people to replace their junks and boats we shall require about five and twenty thousand dollars. That is not a large sum, and I have no doubt it will be very readily subscribed. I have pleasure in telling you that Their Highnesses the Maharajahs Scindia of Gwalior and of Bikanir, who have done me the honour of coming here to-day, have each generously subscribed £25. (Applause). Now I have nothing more to say but to propose that the following gentlemen shall collect for this fund, namely, Mr. Stewart Lockhart, Mr. Chater, Mr. Keswick, Sir Thomas Jackson, Mr. Fung Wah Chuen, Mr. Ho Fook and Mr. Lo Kin Ting. I am sure that amongst these gentlemen the collections will be very readily taken up. I have not asked Mr. Keswick, but I have no doubt he will respond to my suggestion—(Mr. Keswick nodded assent)—to form one of this body of gentlemen, because Mr. Keswick is always ready and willing to come forward when there is a good work to be done. (Applause.) If these gentlemen will kindly undertake to collect, the information which is now in the possession of Mr. Lo Kin Ting can be laid before them, and they can decide on the amount of money to be given in each case.

Sir JOHN CARRINGTON, in seconding the proposition, said he was quite sure that, without going into detail in this matter again, they all sympathised very much with the Chinese floating population especially, who had suffered in this great disaster. He believed that, as his Excellency had said, the community of Hongkong, both Chinese and European, would have great pleasure in coming to their aid. The only suggestion he had to make was that although the European gentlemen on the committee would not be in a position to know the right appropriation of the fund raised, still it would be much better to lay the responsibility on the whole of the committee, the European gentlemen acting in concert with the Chinese gentlemen, who no doubt would enlighten them as to the right appropriation. He supposed it was not contemplated that there should be any other public meeting or committee appointed. This committee, he understood, would be charged with the collection of the fund and also with the distribution of the fund when it had been collected.

The motion was put and carried.

His EXCELLENCY—I thank you very much for your attendance here to-day. I have no doubt whatever that in a very few days the amount which is necessary will be subscribed.

The Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, in proposing a vote of thanks to His Excellency for taking the matter up on behalf of the Chinese, said the

Chinese present would appreciate the very great sympathy and kindness His Excellency had shown towards the sufferers from the typhoon, and he was sure that the Chinese would co-operate with the greatest heartiness in collecting subscriptions. They had already had a few thousand—\$7,000—promised (applause) and he was sure that when it was generally known that the European community had taken such a hearty sympathy in the matter the subscriptions from the Chinese would come in rapidly.

His EXCELLENCY expressed his thanks for the compliment paid him and the proceedings terminated.

We are requested to state that subscriptions to the fund in aid of the sufferers from the recent typhoon can be paid to the honorary treasurer or any other member of the committee appointed at the meeting held on the 3rd inst., viz., Sir Thomas Jackson (hon. treasurer), the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary), the Hon. C. P. Chater, C.M.G., the Hon. J. J. Keswick, Mr. Fung Wah Chuen, Mr. Ho Fook, and Mr. Lo Kin Ling.

Subscriptions can also be paid at the establishments of Messrs. Lane, Crawford & Co., Ltd., Messrs. Kelly & Walsh, Ltd., Messrs. G. Falconer & Co., Messrs. C. J. Gaupp & Co., at the Hongkong Club, the Club Lusitano, and the German Club.

ST. ANDREW'S BALL.

Friday, the 30th ult., being St. Andrew's Day the annual ball promoted by the St. Andrew's Society of Hongkong took place in the City Hall. In the early days of the colony, when the European residents were limited, a cordial invitation was extended to practically all, but as the white population of the colony increased the ball-rooms became more and more crowded until the committee have been compelled to keep the invitations within bounds. We understand that about a thousand were sent out, and they were readily responded to. Unlike most functions of the kind, even the non-dancing man can spend a pleasant hour or so at this great Scottish re-union. Independent of the accommodation provided for them downstairs, where they can enjoy a rubber with their friends, it is interesting to watch the dancers flitting to and fro. The beautiful dresses of the ladies, intermingled with the sombre evening dress of the civilian and the brilliant uniforms of the Navy and Army men, present a spectacle well worth witnessing. The effect is still further enhanced by the garb of ancient Gaul worn by quite a number of those present.

As in previous years the whole of the rooms in the City Hall were pressed into service—the halls as ball-rooms, the library as card-room and bar, and the theatre as supper-room. No one who has attended previous gatherings of the kind could fail to be struck with the fact that, elaborate as have been the decorations heretofore, they were excelled this year. The most noticeable feature after one had emerged from the luxuriant mass of greenery in the vestibule was a huge thistle outlined with electric lamps of different hues. This was at the head of the grand staircase and excited general admiration. Beneath was an immense mirror partly embowered in plants, and the windows above were draped with the Royal Standard, the effect being enhanced by trophies of brightly burnished swords. Further evidence of the character of the gathering was seen in the St. Andrew's shields, with thistles, which adorned the walls of the second staircase. The top landing was a veritable bowery, enlivened by flags and trophies of different kinds. Coming to the ball-rooms, no one who had attended the ball before required to be told that exceptional care had been bestowed on their decoration. St. Andrew's Hall in particular looked considerably better than heretofore. At the far end of the room was the Scottish Coat-of-Arms surmounted by the Royal Coat-of-Arms and a view of Hongkong Harbour, the whole being draped with blue and red ensigns. The portrait of the Duke of Edinburgh at the other end of the room was between a huge Scottish

commencement of the works the Lot, with the buildings thereon, was of the value of about \$200,000 at the least. After the completion of the works in the immediate front of their Lot, the plaintiffs were unable to obtain more than \$110,000 for the Lot and the buildings thereon, and this depreciation was entirely owing to the conversion of the Lot from a Marine into an Inland Lot.

The plaintiffs were not assenting parties under the provisions of the Ordinance to the execution of the reclamation works, and accordingly, acting on their opinion as to the construction of the Ordinance which is stated in paragraph 10 of the Petition, viz., that it is the duty of the Governor to inquire into all cases of loss or damage sustained through the operation of the Ordinance by non-assenting Crown lessees affected by the works and to award them such sum of money or such Crown lease of new land as he in his absolute discretion may think sufficient by way of compensation for such loss and damage, they called upon and required the then Acting Governor, Major-General W. Black, C.B., to inquire into the loss and damage sustained by them through the operation of the Ordinance. On the 22nd November, 1898, Major-General Black professed to award to the plaintiffs the sum of \$15,000 by way of compensation for the loss and damage sustained by them by reason of the execution of the works. But Major-General Black did not make any proper inquiry into the plaintiffs' claim or into their loss and damage; he did not hear the plaintiffs, by themselves or by their counsel, in support of their claim; he gave them no opportunity of calling evidence to prove their loss and damage; he illegally and improperly received evidence put in by the Government in opposition to their claim, without giving them any opportunity of knowing what that evidence was or of contesting it; he took evidence in their absence and behind their backs; and finally his so-called award was not in accordance with such evidence as was put before him, he wholly disregarded it, and awarded to the plaintiffs a much less sum than they appeared to be entitled to on the evidence.

These are the allegations of fact on which the plaintiffs found their claim for relief. The relief asked for is that the award of the Acting Governor, Major-General Black, may be set aside and may be declared by the Court to be null and void.

I proceed in the next place to examine the provisions of the Ordinance under which the works which the plaintiffs allege have caused loss and damage to their property were executed. The Ordinance is numbered 16 of 1889, and it was enacted on the 10th May, 1889. Its title is "An Ordinance to carry out a scheme for the Reclamation of the foreshore opposite the City of Victoria." The preamble is in the following terms:—

"Whereas the foreshore of the harbour of Victoria is in process of silting up to the detriment of the health and commerce of the Colony, and it is expedient to put a stop to such process and to provide a deep water frontage; and whereas the area of level land for building and for roads and quays and open spaces along the sea front of the City of Victoria is insufficient to meet the growing wants of the Colony, and it is expedient to enlarge the same."

By section 2 it is declared that "the works authorised by the Ordinance and all works for the effectual and convenient carrying out of the same are works for the improvement of the Colony and for a 'public purpose' within the meaning of that term as contained in the Crown leases of lands in the Colony."

Section 3 provides that it shall be lawful for the Governor to carry out the authorised works according to the approved plans. It also provides for deviations from the plans, for the immediate commencement and continuance of the works, and for the necessary staff and plant for carrying them out.

Section 4 describes the works authorised by the Ordinance. They are as follows:—

- (a.) The making of an embankment along the harbour front of Victoria and upon the bed or foreshore of the Harbour, with all necessary and convenient subsidiary works;
- (b.) The making upon the embankment of a public roadway and the widening of the present Praya roadway; and

(c.) The reclaiming and filling up of the foreshore and bed of the harbour lying between the present Praya wall and the intended embankment.

By section 5 power is given to the Governor to remove all obstructions to the works, as in his judgment may be necessary.

Section 6 deals with the reclaimed land and the land occupied by the present Praya roadway and wall along the line of the reclamation. These lands are declared to be the property of the Crown and to be subject to the disposition of the Governor in the same way as other Crown lands, and all private property, rights, and easements in or in relation to them or in relation to any wharf, etc., thereon are declared to be absolutely extinguished and determined.

The provisions of section 7 are long and somewhat complicated, but they are very material for the purposes of the present case. There is in the first place a preamble in which it is recited that the Crown lessees whose lands are along the line of the proposed reclamation, or the majority of them, have declared their readiness to contribute to the cost of the works provided the Governor will grant to them Crown leases of such equitable proportion of the reclaimed land as may be available, having regard to public requirements for roads, etc., and to the claims of the lessees as between themselves. It is further recited that the cost of the works is to include a sum not exceeding \$5,000 for preliminary expenses, a sum not exceeding \$180,000 by way of compensation to owners and occupiers of wharves and piers along the line of the proposed reclamation, and a sum not exceeding \$105,000 for the purchase of certain specified land in course of reclamation. Provision is then made as follows:—

- (i.) For the making and depositing at the Land Registry Office of a plan showing in detail the portion of the proposed reclamation assigned to lessees in respect of their lots of land, and the plan is to have annexed to it a Schedule containing a list of the lessees and the approximate contribution required from each of them in respect of the cost of his portion of the reclamation;
- (ii.) For the notification of the deposit of the plan and the publication of the Schedule, and for the signification in writing within two months thereafter by lessees who are desirous of entering into the agreement hereinafter mentioned of their acceptance of the portions of land assigned to them on the plan and of their intention to enter into an agreement;
- (iii.) For authorising the Governor, if he thinks fit, within one month from the expiration of the above-mentioned two months, to enter into an agreement, in the form contained in the Schedule to the Ordinance, with the lessees individually who have signified their acceptance and intention as above mentioned, and for authorising the Governor to dispose of the reclaimed land in accordance with the agreements;
- (iv.) For rectifying errors in the quantity or area of land agreed to be granted; and
- (v.) For limiting (subject to sub-section vii.) the liability of each lessee to the actual cost of the reclamation of the land agreed to be granted to him and of the authorised works in connexion therewith.

The next sub-section is very material. It is in the following terms:—

- (vi.) In case any lessee shall not signify his acceptance in the manner and within the time provided in sub-sections (ii.) and (iii.) of this section he shall have no claim to any compensation in respect of any depreciation of his lot by reason of the said works, but the Governor may if he thinks fit award to him such a sum of money or such a Crown lease of new land as he may in his absolute discretion think sufficient as and by way of compensation for any injury that such lessee may have sustained by the said works."

Sub-section (vii.) provides for the payment by the lessees of a proportionate part of any extraordinary or unforeseen expenses in connexion with the works, and sub-section (viii.) directs that so much of the cost of the works as is not contributed by the lessees is to be defrayed out of the public revenues of the Colony.

Section 8 will be dealt with presently.

Sections 9 and 10 have reference respectively to foreshore and other rights and to the main-

tenance of the sea-wall and roads of the new embankment.

The form of agreement is contained in the Schedule to the Ordinance.

The historical position of the plaintiffs' claim has now, I think, been made clear. They were Crown lessees and, as such, marine lot-holders affected by the scheme who did not enter into the agreement mentioned in the Ordinance, and they allege that their property having become depreciated in value by the execution of the works, it was the duty of the Governor to hold an inquiry into their claim for compensation. They further allege that the Acting Governor did hold such an inquiry, but that he held it in such a one-sided and improper manner that the Court will set aside the award founded upon it. It remains to consider whether, having regard to the provisions of the Ordinance, the Court has jurisdiction to inquire into the conduct and proceedings of the Acting Governor, and, if necessary, to set aside his award.

The general scope and purpose of the Ordinance are sufficiently plain. The Legislature of the day recognized that it was a matter of great importance for the health and commerce of the Colony that a large reclamation of the foreshore opposite the City of Victoria should be made and a deep water frontage provided, and, a majority of the Crown lessees affected by the proposed works having agreed to contribute to the cost of the works on certain terms, it proceeded to make provision for the execution of those works. The duty of carrying out those works was imposed on the Governor, and he was invested with full and absolute powers for that purpose. But it was obvious that, inasmuch as large and valuable interests were affected by the scheme, the progress of the works might be seriously delayed if the proprietors of those interests were at liberty to seek redress in the Courts of Justice for any injury to their interests which might be caused or supposed to be caused by the execution of the works. Accordingly the Legislature obviated this danger by deliberately excluding the ordinary jurisdiction of the Courts in respect of claims of that kind. This was the view taken of the effect of the Ordinance in the case of *Ryrie v. The Attorney-General* which was decided by the Full Court in 1890. In that case the plaintiff, as trustee for the City Hall, sought an injunction to restrain the Government from proceeding with the reclamation works in front of the marine lot on which the City Hall stands, on the ground that the effect of the reclamation would be to interfere with his right of access and proximity to the sea, convert his holding into an inland lot, and thus diminish the value of his property. The Court refused the injunction asked for on the ground that, apart from the Ordinance, the plaintiff was not entitled to an injunction but only to damages. On the question of the effect of the Ordinance Russell, C.J., made the following observations:—"But apart from the merits of this particular case, whatever may be the rights of this or any other marine lot-holder, the jurisdiction of this Court is ousted by the Praya Reclamation Ordinance. The Legislature has, by sec. 7, sub-sec. 6, enacted that Crown lessees who have not come in under sub-secs. 2 and 3 shall have no claim to compensation in respect of any depreciation of his (sic) lot by reason of the said works, and the Governor is vested with absolute discretion as to awarding compensation to those who have not come into the agreement. If the plaintiff did attempt to come in under the agreement and was not permitted, or if he was refused any compensation by the Governor, still this Court cannot help him, for sections 6 and 8 extinguish all rights and remedies except those provided by the Ordinance, namely, to have an equitable allotment or [quæ of] compensation for injury as the Governor may decide." And at the close of his judgment he says:—"To put the matter shortly, I am of opinion that if the plaintiff has a cause of action at all, he is not entitled to an injunction, but only to damages. Second, that any cause of action which he might have is taken away by the Ordinance, which vests in the Governor the power of saying what, if any, compensation should be allowed."

Having regard to this decision, it must be and is admitted on the part of the plaintiffs that the general jurisdiction of the Court in respect of wrongs caused by the construction

of the works is taken away by the Ordinance, and, to take the particular case now before the Court, that a non-assenting Crown lessee has no right of direct recourse to the Court in respect of any depreciation in value which may be occasioned to his lot by the execution of the works. But it is argued that, while this is so, and such a lessee is therefore left without his ordinary remedy, he is provided with a special remedy for redress of his wrongs. This special remedy, it is said, consists in the establishment of a procedure by way of or analogous to arbitration by which his loss may be inquired into and compensation for it awarded. The Governor, it is said, is constituted arbitrator in such a case and the duty is laid on him of inquiring into the case of the aggrieved lessee and of awarding him compensation for his loss and damage. It was very properly admitted by the Attorney-General that, if the Governor is indeed an arbitrator under the Ordinance, some of the things which are stated to have been done by the Acting Governor cannot be supported, and the Court will be justified in interfering in the exercise of its general jurisdiction over subordinate tribunals. But the question is, Is it really true that the Governor is constituted by the Ordinance an arbitrator, in the ordinary sense of that word, for the purpose of inquiring into the claims of injured lessees and of assessing and awarding compensation in respect of their loss and damage? It seems to me that this question must be answered in the negative. I will state shortly the reasons which have led me to form this opinion.

A good deal of stress was laid by Mr. Francis, counsel for the plaintiffs, on the use of the word "award" in section 7 (vi.) It was said that the word is a term of art and imports a quasi-judicial inquiry and determination and that it must be taken that the Legislature employed it in this technical sense, which is also its ordinary sense. It is true that this is the primary signification of the word, but it is equally true that the word is often used in a more general sense as meaning "to allow; to allot; to yield." It appears to me that an examination of the whole of the context shows that in section 7 (vi.) the word "award" is used in the general and not in the special or technical sense. It will be noticed from the passage quoted above that Russell, C. J., in his judgment speaks of "an equitable allotment or [quæ] of compensation for injury."

There are, in my opinion, several serious difficulties in the way of holding that section 7 (vi.) of the Ordinance establishes a procedure by way of arbitration, with the Governor as arbitrator, for awarding of compensation in cases such as the one now before the Court.

In the first place there is no machinery of arbitration provided, either by express enactment or by the familiar method of incorporating the provisions of other statutes relating to arbitration. Nothing is said about the aggrieved lessee preferring his claim for loss or damage within a prescribed time, to a prescribed person, or in a prescribed manner. Nothing, again, is said about the Governor inquiring into such loss or damage, whether on a formal claim preferred or otherwise. Supposing that he does so inquire, the enactment is silent as to the right of the aggrieved person to appear before him or to submit evidence to him in support of his claim. Further, an arbitration implies a proceeding by two parties before an arbitrator or umpire, but there is here no indication as to who the party other than the aggrieved lessee may or should be. Still further, the provision that the Governor may, if he thinks fit, award the aggrieved lessee such a sum of money or such a Crown lease of new land as he may, in his absolute discretion, think sufficient as compensation is inconsistent with the idea of arbitration, because in a proceeding by way of arbitration the award is not made if the arbitrator or umpire thinks fit but it must be made, nor is it made according to the absolute discretion of the arbitrator or umpire but it must be made according to the very right of the matter. And in the last place it is not likely that the Legislature would be guilty of so grave a departure from custom and precedent as to constitute as sole arbitrator an officer who is charged with the execution of the works, whose sympathies must almost necessarily be with the officers engaged in carrying out the works and against the non-assenting lessees, and who also will naturally be

reluctant to make too heavy calls on the Treasury for the benefit of aggrieved lessees.

Two other observations of a similar purport suggest themselves. In the first place I am inclined to think that the words used in section 7 (vi.), namely, that a non-assenting lessee shall have no claim to any compensation in respect of any depreciation of his lot by reason of the works, are so clear and absolute in their signification as to extinguish not only the right of obtaining compensation by the direct award of a court of justice but also the right of obtaining it by the award of an arbitrator or in any other way. The right is wholly taken away, and there is substituted for it the chance of obtaining compensation by the grace of the Governor. Compensation is to be recovered, if at all, not *ex debito justitiæ* but *ex gratiâ*.

In the next place it may be pointed out that if the Court were to hold that it has jurisdiction to inquire into the Governor's proceedings in dealing with the case of a non-assenting lessee, it would be going a long way to defeat the manifest intention of the Legislature by assuming indirectly a jurisdiction the direct exercise of which the Legislature has forbidden in very clear and definite terms.

So much for the construction of section 7 (vi.) both in itself and in the light of the other provisions of the Ordinance, apart from section 8. But it is urged on behalf of the plaintiffs that the language of this latter section lends considerable support to the view put forward for the plaintiffs as to the proper construction of section 7 (vi.). Section 8 reads as follows:—"8. Except as in this Ordinance provided, no marine lot-holder or other person shall be entitled as against the Crown to any damages or compensation for the depreciation or injurious affecting of his property or business caused by, or resulting either directly or indirectly from, any of the said works." It is said that the effect of this language is to convey a clear implication that section 7 (vi.) provides that a non-assenting lessee "shall be entitled as against the Crown to damages or compensation for the depreciation or injurious affecting of his property or business" by the works. But, in my opinion, the language of this enactment can receive its proper construction without making it refer to section 7 (vi.) and so, as I think, straining the language of that enactment to a sense which it was not intended to bear. For a reference to the recitals in the early part of section 7 will show that it was agreed that a sum not exceeding \$180,000 was to be charged to the cost of the works by way of compensation to owners and occupiers of wharves and piers along the line of the proposed reclamation. This sum is definitely appropriated by way of compensation to this class of persons in respect of their injured interests, and I presume it may be taken for granted that this appropriation formed part of the compact or arrangement by virtue of which the works came to be executed. The title of this class of persons to this sum was complete, subject, of course, to a proper apportionment of it amongst the individual members of the class. It is probable that some members of this class were "marine lot-holders;" at any rate, if they were not so, they were "other persons" within the meaning of section 8. Here then is the exception "provided by the Ordinance" to the general rule established by the Ordinance that persons whose interests are injuriously affected by the works are not to be entitled to compensation for such injurious affecting. Even if there had not been this specific exception to which the opening words of section 8 can be taken to refer, I very much doubt whether the words in that section which refer to title to compensation are sufficiently clear and wide in their scope to control the construction of section 7 (vi.) so as to convert a mere moral claim to consideration and relief into a legal title to compensation, whether by arbitration or otherwise.

With regard to this matter of compensation to be made to the owners and occupiers of wharves and piers, it is instructive to note the procedure prescribed by the Legislature for the apportionment of the sum assigned for that purpose. The Praya Reclamation Ordinance, 1889, is silent as to the method of apportionment, but provision for this purpose was made by the Praya Wharves and Piers Ordinance, 1893. By this Ordinance the Director of Public Works

and Mr. William Danby, M.I.C.E., were appointed valuers, with Chief Justice Fielding Clarke as umpire, for the purpose of estimating the cost of the removal and re-erection of wharves and piers and of preparing a table of compensation in respect of them. No provision was made for the appearance of parties concerned before the valuers or the umpire, and I am informed that, as a matter of fact, the parties did not so appear and were not heard. It was enacted that the table of compensation was to be published, and that if any objections were made to the payment of any sums mentioned in it or if any difficulties arose in connexion with such payment, the sums in question were to be paid into the Supreme Court and the Court was to exercise summary jurisdiction for the settlement of such objections and difficulties. For this purpose the Court was invested with power to summon before it all persons concerned and to hear and determine their claims. It appears therefore that even where the right to compensation was absolute and formed part of the compact on which the scheme of the reclamation works was founded, the Legislature was desirous of avoiding as far as possible the delay and expense of legal and quasi-legal proceedings.

In conclusion I may say that, although I am of opinion that the plaintiffs have failed to establish their claim to relief at the hands of this Court, I fully indorse the language used by Fielding Clarke, J., at the end of his judgment in *Ryrie v. The Attorney General* *supra*:—"Such a power of legislation must of necessity include the power to modify, alter, and even destroy, existing rights, although of course the greatest care should be exercised that no injury be inflicted without adequate compensation." Although the legal right is taken away, yet it cannot but be a point of honour with the Governor to pay full regard to the moral right. And where such a right is alleged, I have no hesitation in saying that the claimant ought to be allowed a full opportunity of setting forth the grounds on which his alleged right rests and also of knowing and answering any facts and reasons which may be put forward in opposition to it.

The result of the views which I have now expressed is that the issue of law which has been argued before me must be decided adversely to the plaintiffs and that judgment must be entered for the defendant, with his costs of suit.

Mr. Francis ventured to remind his Lordship that in a previous case with relation to the present claim there was a very strong intimation from the Court that in any settlement to be made the costs should be taken into consideration, good, bad or indifferent, had been given.

His Lordship—What has been done with that suit? Is it withdrawn?

Mr. Francis—It is not withdrawn; it stands on the record.

The Attorney General—Of course, there are two sets of costs. As regards the costs of the action against Sir William Robinson, your Lordship had only the advantage of hearing one side in that matter. You heard the full argument of Mr. Francis—

Mr. Francis—You heard the Attorney General for days.

His Lordship—If I remember rightly you argued it fully.

The Attorney General said he had prepared a very elaborate argument which, he thought, would have had the result of a verdict in his favour with costs, but he never had an opportunity of putting before the Court his view. The actual facts were all on record. A mandamus was applied for in the previous action for the Court to order Sir William Robinson to take into consideration and investigate the claim. His learned friend argued in favour of that. He (the Attorney General) prepared an argument in reply, but owing to pressure of business the Court did not continue the hearing, and in the meantime Sir William Robinson had gone. Thereupon Mr. Francis asked that instead of Sir William Robinson Major-General Black's name be inserted. His reply to that was that the Court could not be asked to grant a mandamus until the person to whom the mandamus was to be issued had refused to do a thing he had been asked to be made to do, and Major-General Black had never been asked to make any award.

It was left in that way. He contended that in that case the proceedings were absolutely unnecessary; they came to nothing.

His Lordship said—There is not enough before me to induce me to depart from my finding, but I will express this opinion:—Supposing the issues of fact had been tried before the issues of law had been tried and determined, and you had proved to me that your allegations were well founded, I should not have awarded the costs to the defendants. But on the issue of law as now decided, I must give the defendant his costs. I think the best course will be to submit the matter to the Governor.

Mr. Francis—If your Lordship thinks the Governor or the Attorney General will admit anything to be true, I am afraid it will be a very great mistake. After the extremely liberal promises that were made in Court by the Attorney General, it is utterly hopeless to expect anything in the shape of justice.

His Lordship—If these allegations are in any substantial degree well founded, the Governor might properly forego the costs.

Mr. Francis—Your Lordship will see these allegations are well founded.

His Lordship—I am speaking of the allegations as to the mode of conducting the inquiry. The Court was then adjourned.

Tuesday, 4th December.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR JOHN CARRINGTON, C.M.G. (CHIEF JUSTICE).

CHAN HUNG TONG V. POON HUNG, SUED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF HIMSELF AND ALL OTHERS THE PARTNERS IN THE YU TSEUNG SHING FIRM.

This is a claim for \$1,970.40, money lent and interest thereon.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. H. E. Pollock, Q.C. (instructed by Messrs. Deacon and Hastings), for the defendants.

Mr. Francis said that this was a claim for money lent and interest on money lent. He would ask his Lordship for permission in the first instance to amend the claim from \$1,970.40 to \$1,848.40.

Mr. Pollock objected, no notice having been given to him on the point, and Mr. Francis withdrew his application.

Mr. Francis, continuing, read the pleadings in the case. In his petition the plaintiff said he was a trader residing and carrying on business at 62, Praya Central. The defendant, Poon Hung, was a trader residing and carrying on business in co-partnership with another or others to the plaintiff unknown under the style or firm name of the Yu Tseung Shing, at No. 83, Queen's Road Central. The plaintiff on or about the 21st March, 1897, lent to the defendant so trading the sum of \$500 at interest at the rate 80 cents per 100 per month, and on or about the 27th March, 1897, a further sum of \$500 at a like rate of interest, and on or about the 2nd April, 1897, a further sum of \$500 at a like rate of interest; the whole of the said moneys to be repayable on demand with interest at the rate aforesaid. The plaintiff had repeatedly demanded from the defendant so trading as aforesaid the repayment of such sums of money with the interest due thereon, but the defendant had always refused and still refused to repay to the plaintiff the said sums of money or any of them or any part thereof or of the interest due thereon, and the defendant was justly and truly indebted to the plaintiff in the sum of \$1,970.40. The plaintiff therefore prayed that he might have judgment against Poon Hung and others the partners in the said Yu Tseung Shing firm, for the said sum of \$1,970 with interest thereon at 8 per cent per annum from the date of writ to the date of judgment. In his answer the defendant, Poon Hung, said he was a trader and resided and carried on business alone and not in co-partnership with another or others under the style or firm name of the Yu Tseung Shing, 83, Queen's Road Central. The plaintiff had not lent to the defendant, whether trading as the Yu Tseung Shing or otherwise, any sum of money whatever at any time whatever either at interest or otherwise.

The defendant denied that the plaintiff repeatedly demanded from him the payment of the sums in question, and said that the plaintiff asked the defendant personally for repayment once only. In further answer the defendant said that he refused to pay to the plaintiff the sums of money referred to in the petition or any of them or any part thereof or any interest thereon, and that he was not indebted to the plaintiff in the sum of \$1,970 or any other sum. Continuing, Mr. Francis said the loans made by the plaintiff to the defendant's shop or place of business was in the ordinary course of Chinese custom. He did not believe there was a single shop or store doing business in Hongkong which did not habitually take money on deposit or loan for the ordinary purpose of its business. This shop habitually did take money from different customers or from anybody who had money to put out on deposit at interest, the money being repayable on demand. The person who was manager of the business at the time the money was lent was Chan U Long, who was then and still was a partner in the firm. The evidence he had to put before his Lordship was simply the evidence of the plaintiff, who would say under what circumstances he lent the money, and who would produce the receipts for the money which he received from the man who acted as manager and accountant, and the evidence of a brother of that accountant, who was himself also equally interested in the firm.

The plaintiff, on being called, said he was the proprietor of the Meng Li Chang Boarding House at No. 130, Des Voeux Road, the old Praya. The old No. was 62, Praya Central. He was also sole master of the Man Sing stationery shop, at No. 132, Queen's Road Central. He knew the Yu Tseung Shing firm. He had known it upwards of ten years. It carried on business in Queen's Road Central. It carried on business in tea. He had dealings with the firm in 1897. He bought a small quantity of tea now and then. He had also money dealings with the firm. He had lent money to the shop. He lent \$1,000. Altogether he lent the shop \$1,500. This \$1,500 was money of his own. The \$1,000 was the money of his friend. The \$1,000 had been repaid. He lent the \$1,500 at three different times—\$500 each time. He saw the accountant of the Yu Tseung Shing—Chan U Tong—and the money was handed to him.

The brother of the man who was the manager and accountant in the defendant firm when the money in question was lent also gave evidence. He was interested in the defendant firm and produced statements of accounts supplied to him showing that the defendant firm owed the plaintiff \$1,500.

The hearing was adjourned.

Wednesday, 5th December.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR JOHN CARRINGTON, C.M.G. (CHIEF JUSTICE).

CHAN HUNG TONG V. POON HUNG, SUED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF HIMSELF AND ALL OTHERS THE PARTNERS IN THE YU TSEUNG SHING FIRM.

This is a claim for \$1,970.40, money lent and interest thereon.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. H. E. Pollock, Q.C. (instructed by Messrs. Deacon and Hastings), for the defendants.

Chan Lau Kai, continuing his evidence, said he knew the Po Cheung firm. It ceased to exist about ten years ago. It was a branch of the Yu Tseung Shing and had premises at Honam, Canton. It was shut up because it did not pay. In the year 1896 the entire loss of the Po Cheung was allowed for in the accounts, and it was after this that the division of capital took place. The Po Cheung carried on business in tea.

In reply to Mr. Pollock, the witness said he did not know what Chan Yu Tong was doing at Singapore. He had never heard that he intended to come back to Hongkong. He had never heard that he owed money in Hongkong. After Chan Yu Tong left the Yu Tseung Shing he

went to Singapore to look for employment. He told him he was going to Singapore in February 1898. The books of the Yu Tseung Shing were kept by Chan Yu Tong when he was managing the business—he had heard so. His father died about ten years ago. Poon Hung and Chan Ho were left in the business. Since his father's death he went to see Poon Hung and suggested that a new agreement should be made in the Yu Tseung Shing's business. Poon Hung said, "We are well acquainted with each other and we are honest men, and there is no need to enter into a fresh agreement," and no fresh agreement was entered into. He had never entered into partnership with the defendant, Poon Hung. He had simply received his share of the profits as before. He first heard of the borrowing of this \$1,500 from the plaintiff some time about the 23rd year—1897. He could not remember who told him, but he thought it was the plaintiff. Somebody else also told him about it, but he could not remember who. Neither of these people told him that this money was handed over to Chan Yu Tong. He only heard that the Yu Tseung was in need of money to buy goods, and that the plaintiff had lent it some. He had never heard it said until now that this \$1,500 was paid into Chan Yu Tong's hands. The plaintiff had never told him into whose hands he had paid the money. He had said he paid it into the shop. The plaintiff knew that Chan Yu Tong was his brother. The plaintiff had known him and his brother since they were boys.

The Chief Justice asked Mr. Pollock if he had seen any of the balance-sheets produced before the hearing of the case.

Mr. Pollock said he had seen those for 1896 and 1897.

The Chief Justice—Because unless you can overthrow them they are very strong evidence.

Mr. Pollock said that some of the items were incorrect. It would be quite sufficient for him to point out to the Court that as regarded some of the material items in the accounts they were not correct.

The Chief Justice—But you don't set up the position that it is a fabricated affair?

Mr. Pollock—Yes, as regards certain items, which I contend have undoubtedly been fabricated for the purposes of this suit.

Evidence having been given by the Court translator as to the translations of certain documents, Mr. Francis said that this was the case for the plaintiffs.

Mr. Pollock submitted in the first place on behalf of the defendant that there was no case for them to answer at all, because he would submit that there was no evidence before the court that Chan Yu Tong was a partner in the Yu Tseung Shing firm or that he was a partner in the firm in 1897, when this money was alleged to have been borrowed. Taking alone the statements made by the plaintiff and his witness as correct, what was the legal position of Chan Yu Tong and his four brothers? He submitted that they would not be considered as partners by the rule of English law, and that therefore Chan Yu Tong would have no authority to borrow money on behalf of the firm even if he did so, and, therefore, his borrowing of money would not bind the firm, even although he might profess to be borrowing the money on behalf of the firm. Of course his Lordship understood that he did not admit that the plaintiff's evidence was correct or that any money was borrowed. He was merely assuming for the moment that the evidence of the plaintiff and his witness was correct for the purpose of the legal argument which he was now presenting to the Court, and his point was that from the evidence of the plaintiff and his witness it was clear that in point of law Chan Yu Tong was not a partner and never had been a partner in the Yu Tseung Shing firm. He submitted that all that had happened in the present case with regard to Chan Yu Tong and his brothers was that they had been simply receiving a portion of the profits as representatives of their father. There was no agreement whatever as to partnership. In the absence of some agreement by a person simply receiving a share of profit that the business should be carried on in his behalf so as to make him liable for contracts entered into with outsiders, he would submit that a partnership was not constituted between the parties. With regard

to the balance-sheet for 1897, he had a piece of evidence to produce which would, he thought, throw considerable light upon it. But of course he did not contend for one moment that certain items in the balance-sheet were not genuine. There were certain balances brought forward and so on which corresponded with the balances of the previous year, and that was all right. They had no complaint to make with regard to them, but he thought he should be able to suggest to his Lordship that it was extremely probable that in some details this balance-sheet had been cooked.

The Chief Justice—You do not challenge the other two; only this one?

Mr. Pollock—It is only necessary for me to challenge this one.

The Chief Justice—But still you do not propose to challenge the other two?

Mr. Pollock said he did not propose to discuss or argue about them. A man named Lan Lung, who was employed at the Yu Tseung Shing shop in 1897, and was probably employed there to-day, entered in a book the tea sales, which book would be produced. This book showed that the sales of tea for the year 1897 amounted in value to 9260 taels, whilst the balance-sheet only showed sales to the value of 7,355, or 1,905 less.

The defendant corroborated the statement of his counsel.

The hearing was adjourned.

Thursday, 6th December.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR JOHN CARRINGTON, C.M.G. (CHIEF JUSTICE).

CHAN HUNG TONG V. POON HUNG, SUE FOR AND ON BEHALF OF HIMSELF AND ALL OTHERS THE PARTNERS IN THE YU TSEUNG SHING FIRM.

This is a claim for \$1,970.40, money lent and interest thereon.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. H. E. Pollock, Q.C. (instructed by Messrs. Deacon and Hastings), for the defendants.

The hearing of the evidence for the defence was continued, and the hearing was further adjourned.

THE "PERSEVERANCE" PIRACY.

The hearing of the evidence against the two men, Cheung Yan and Leung Kwai, on the charge of piracy and robbery within the jurisdiction of the Chinese Empire, came to a close before Mr. Hazeland at the Police Court on the 1st inst., when the defendants submitted their statements.

Cheung Yan said he went on board the *Perseverance* at Macao to go to Cheong Chan, to join the fishing junk *Kwong Li*. On the way the launch was captured by pirates, and he and the other passengers were robbed, defendant losing ten pieces of clothing, two dollars, and two quilts.

Leung Kwai's statement was similar. He also was going to Cheong Chan to join the fishing junk *Tai Sing*. He, in company with other passengers, was robbed by the pirates, and the accusation implicating him in that piracy was a false one.

The two men were ordered to be confined to gaol pending the Governor's orders.

We have received from a correspondent the following example of Anglo-Chinese epistolary style, which may interest our readers:—"Dear Sir, I was very glad to meet you on the other day but still yet I feel kind of regret for I have not stay little longer and have conversation with you as we had couple-friends of us was waiting; But the Clerk's business we were talking about I suppose I can stand it that is in case they don't give me the great hard work for commences, I don't think they would rather I only say so. Now I haven't got much to say the only thing I wish you shall be kind enough to try your best to get me a position at your office or any other place if you can and oblige. Hoping hear from you soon, I remain, yours respectfully."

CRICKET.

A CLUB XI. V. ROYAL WELCH FUSILIERS.

Play commenced at 11.30 a.m. on the 1st inst. The Royal Welch Fusiliers won the toss and went in to bat. They had 5 wickets down for 53, but before the sixth wicket fell 80 runs were added. When the tiffin ball rang the score stood at 140 runs for 6 wickets. Play was resumed after tiffin, but the R.W.F. were not got rid of before they had compiled a substantial score of 196.

Revs. Salisbury and Good opened the Club innings, but with the exception of the former of these, the first six batsmen did not offer any serious opposition, and the score stood at 96 for 6 wickets. However, 54 runs were added before Libeaud was caught for a carefully played 10. This brought the score up to 151 for 7 wickets and the Club now looked as though they had a chance of winning; but unfortunately Salisbury ran out to one of Hill's balls, which he missed, and was very well stumped by Johnson, after having played a good innings of 82. The remaining wickets made a poor stand and the Club innings closed for 154, the last three wickets only adding 4 runs and the R.W.F. won by 42 runs.

For the R.W.F. Lieut. Williams's dashing 56 won the match for his side and Capt. Doughty and Lieut. Higgon also played a good innings for 39 and 25 respectively.

For the Club Rev. E. H. Salisbury played a very fine innings and proved himself to be undoubtedly the best bat on the ground. His bowling also was good, although not very successful. Shettle showed himself to be a very useful bowler, as his analysis proved—5 wickets for 65—and with more experience of the ground he should follow up his first success. Libeaud made a good stand for the Club at a critical part of the game, and his fielding was smart. The Club were not strongly represented; however, but for Howard's three overs, which gave the R.W.F. 45 runs, they might have come out the right side. Howard was no doubt upset by bowling three no-balls in his first over. The Club men lost at least 20 runs between the wickets, often only getting one run instead of an easy two, but the batsmen did not seem to realise that every run went towards winning the match; whereas on the other hand the R.W.F. very often stole a run when, if the fielder had been smart, the batsman would have been run out.

To-day the Hills will play the Plains; and next Saturday the Club will play the Navy, who by that time should be able to muster a strong team.

Appended are the scores and analysis:—

ROYAL WELCH FUSILIERS.			
First Innings.		Second Innings	
Lieut. Hill, c Cox, b Shettle	11		
Lieut. Higgon, b Salisbury	25	not out	5
Lieut. Gwyther, c Libeaud, b Shettle	6	b Shettle	12
Lieut. Johnson, c Stewart, b Shettle	7	c Salisbury, b Shettle	9
Capt. Doughty, run out	39		
Major Sir H. McMahon, c Hooper, b Howard	1		
Lieut. Williams, b Shettle	58		
Capt. Cadogan, run out	15		
Lieut. Lloyd, b Salisbury	2	not out	3
Prt. Amesbury, c Waymouth, b Shettle	17		
Prt. Stafford, not out	9	c Waymouth, b Shettle	1
Extras	8		

Total 196 Total (3 wkts.) 32

THE CLUB XI.			
Rev. E. Good, c Hill, b Higgon	5		
Rev. E. H. Salisbury, st Johnson, b Hill	81		
J. Hooper, c Johnson, b Higgon	2		
E. Shettle, R.N., b Hill	12		
W. H. Howard, c Hill, b Higgon	6		
P. C. Cox, b Stafford	17		
Capt. Waymouth, R.A., b Hill	13		
E. J. Libeaud, c Higgon, b Hill	10		
A. Stewart, hit wicket, b Hill	1		
Lieut. Melville, 22nd Bombay, c Johnson, b Higgon	1		
G. A. Woodcock, not out	0		
Byes	6		

Total 154

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

ROYAL WELCH FUSILIERS.								
First Innings.				Second Innings.				
	O.	M.	R.	W.	O.	M.	R.	W.
Shettle	14	8	65	5	5	0	22	3
Salisbury	14	0	49	2	—	—	—	—
Howard	3	0	43	1	—	—	—	—

	O.	M.	R.	W.	O.	M.	R.	W.
Waymouth	4	0	31	1	—	—	—	—
Good	—	—	—	—	4	2	8	0
Hooper	—	—	—	—	1	0	2	0

THE CLUB XI.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Higgon	22	7	68	4
Hill	22	4	43	5
Stafford	3	0	15	1
Williams	2	0	17	0

H.M.S. "ENDYMION" V. XI OF H.M.S.'S.

"ASTREA" AND "UNDAUNTED."

Played at Happy Valley on 29th November.

Scores:—

H.M.S. "ASTREA" AND "UNDAUNTED."

D. Kirwan, c Silk, b Williams	2
A. Ross, c Palmer, b Neat	3
A. Philbuck, st Price, b Franklin	50
A. Carpenter, b Neat	2
F. A. Gordon, c Franklin, b Neat	2
F. C. Brown, c Silk, b Neat	8
B. Harvey, retired hurt	6
— Cover, c Palmer, b Franklin	7
K. Humphreys, b Franklin	0
R. H. Kane, not out	24
— Beer, b Franklin	21
Extras	7

Total 132

H.M.S. "ENDYMION."

C. S. P. Franklin, c and b Ross	46
— Williams, b Ross	15
N. M. C. Thurstan, b Cover	2
E. H. Neat, b Cover	26
J. H. Orton, not out	29
A. R. Palmer	
E. S. Silk	
R. W. Bayly	
— Price	
H. B. Wilson	
W. Fraser	
Extras	20

Total (for 4 wickets) 138

FOOTBALL.

HONGKONG F.C. VERSUS SIEGE TRAIN XI.

This match was played at Happy Valley on the 1st inst. in favourable weather, before a good turn-out of spectators. The teams were:—

H.K.F.C.—Goal—Kew; backs—Looker and Russell; half-backs—Jenkins, Pinckney and Bonner; forwards—Capt. Swettenham, Lieut. Clapham, Noble, Wild and Yule.

Siege Train—Goal—Field; backs—Moorhouse and Hay; half-backs—O'Brien, Nicol and Ryan; forwards—Gattins, Scott, Phinn, Bond and Woods.

Hongkong won the toss, Noble kicking off and passing to Clapham. Bond tackled, and was successful in capturing. He passed to Woods, who sprinted for goal. Looker interposed, however, and a bye resulted. The goal kick saw the ball again taken charge of by the right wing men of the Siege Train. Yule tackled, and a shy in favour of the Tommies was recorded. Phinn captured, and, relinquishing the leather to Bond, another visit was paid to the Hongkong custodian. Looker and Russell, however, worked effectively, and a tussle at goal resulted in a corner against the home eleven that for a time looked very like business. The Hongkong forwards eventually were successful in getting the ball out, only, however, to lose it almost immediately to Scott, who tried a long shot for goal. Looker faked, and Kew, who appeared to be depending on Looker, was almost caught unawares as the ball came in. He just managed to save, however, and gave the leather to Yule, who carried it into midfield. Up till now the game had been all in the ground men's territory, the latter acting entirely on the defensive and appearing to have their work out to do even that; they had very few, if any, opportunities of assuming the aggressive. The Siege Train were playing a splendid game, and defeating their opponents pretty nearly on all points. Their recent campaigning has rubbed all the superfluous flesh from their bones, and left them just such men as can take their places, without fear for the result, in almost any football field and against almost any team. Yule in midfield had to relinquish the ball to Woods, and the Siege Train forwards again visited the Hongkong custodian. Another of the series of struggles at Kew's goal resulted in a corner, which was unproductive. Kew sent the ball over to the left wing, and Wild sprinted pluckily and shot. It was a good try, but was spoiled by Moorhouse. Swettenham sent the ball in again

flag and a Union Jack. The windows in both halls and the ante-rooms were draped with striped curtains, which added much to their cozy appearance. At intervals it has always been the custom to decorate the walls with shields bearing the St. Andrew's cross, but this year the idea has been improved upon considerably. The shields were flanked by flags—the Scottish, St. George's Cross, and the green flag with the harp of the Emerald Isle—whilst underneath were smaller shields with the lion rampant of Scotland, the Irish harp, or the Royal Standard. Along with the shields were the names of the counties of Scotland, the Highland counties being in St. Andrew's Hall, the Lowland counties in St. George's Hall, and the Midland counties in the ante-room. In St. George's Hall the fine portrait of Her Majesty the Queen was flanked by the Irish flag and the Royal Standard. The band-stand dividing one hall from the other was decorated with arms, whilst above the band in St. Andrew's Hall was the banner of the local society. In the ante-room was a portrait of the first president of the society, the Hon. Phineas Ryrie. The decorations in the theatre were pretty much as usual. The wall was adorned with shields bearing the rampant lion and the thistle, and the pillars above were entwined with greenery and joined together by festoons. On the stage were a couple of howitzers, these, together with the other military decorations, having been procured and arranged by Lieutenant Ogilvie, R.A.

His Excellency the Governor and party arrived soon after nine o'clock, and were welcomed by the President of the St. Andrew's Society (Mr. James McKie) and several leading members of the committee, some of whom, including Mr. D. Gillies and Captain Anderson, were attired in kilts. Piper Sinclair, of the Naval Yard Police, led the way to the ball-room. Here a strain of the National Anthem was played by the band of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, and then the ball was opened.

The set of the President of the Society (Mr. James McKie) in the opening dance (Lancers) was made up as follows:—Mr. James McKie and Lady Blake, Sir Henry A. Blake and Mrs. Gascoigne, Major-General Gascoigne and Mrs. Stewart Lockhart, Sir John Carrington and Mrs. Law, the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart and Mrs. H. W. Robertson, the Hon. W. Meigh Goodman and Miss Anderson, the Hon. J. J. Keswick and Mrs. Powell, Mr. David Gillies and Mrs. Goodman.

The following was the Programme:—

1. Lancers *Cuidchan Righ.*
2. Waltz *Ruacum Racum.*
3. Caledonians *An Comunn Gaelach.*
4. Waltz *Uilleam's Calum's Moray.*
5. Eightsome Reel *Am Braman air reang nan Teilear.*
6. Waltz *Ben Cruachan.*
7. Caledonians *Glen Albyn.*
8. Strathspey & Reel *Faillie Sheamus More.*
9. Waltz *Bhratack Bhan Chlann Avidh.*
10. Barn Dance *Bodaich nam brigisean.*
11. Polka *Cead mille faiche.*
12. Waltz *Tha mi gu Tinn.*
13. Highland Schottische *Tulach Ard.*
14. Caledonians *Ardmore.*
15. Waltz *Fear a Chinn Mhoir.*
16. Strathspey & Reel *Cabar Feidh.*
17. Waltz *Buachill nan Caorach.*
18. Lancers *Cuidchan Righ.*
19. Waltz *Uilleam's Calum's Moray.*
20. Eightsome Reel *Port more McEwen.*
21. Waltz *Fraoch Eilean.*
22. Waltz & Galop *Auld Lang Syne.*

Supper was commenced at half past eleven, when the Governor's party, headed by Piper Sinclair, took their places at the President's table on the stage of the theatre. The party included those forming the President's set at the opening of the ball, and in addition the following:—Their Highnesses the Maharajahs Scindia of Gwalior and Bikanir, Captain G. C. Anderson and Mrs. Dickson, Sir Thomas Jackson and Mrs. Wildman, Colonel the O'Gorman, and Commodore Powell and Miss. Powell. The haggis was carried to the President's table by Mr. A. Stewart, headed by Piper Sinclair.

The following was the Menu:—

"Some hae meat and canna eat,
And some wad eat that want it!
But we hae meat and we can eat,
And see the Lord be thankit."

Turtle Soup.
Saddle of Mutton.
Roast Turkey. York Ham.
Roast Kobe Beef. Corned Beef.
Corned Tongue. Roast Capon.
Game Pie. Sheeps' Head Pie.
Pâté de Foie Gras in Jelly.
Lobster Salad. Chicken Salad.
Roast Pheasant. Roast Wild Duck.

THE HAGGIS.

Hot Potatoes.
"Fair fa' your honest sonsie face,
Great chieftain o' the puddin' race,
Aboon them a' ye tak your place."

"Freedom and whisky gang thegither,
Tak' aff your dram."

SWEETS.

Gooseberry Tart. Jam Tartlets.
Puffs. Jellies.

BLANC MANGE.

Vanilla and Chocolate Ice Creams.
Scotch Shortbread.

"We'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet for auld lang syne."

On the proposition of the President the toast of "The memory of St. Andrew" was drunk in solemn silence.

The President announced that telegrams of greeting had been despatched to the kindred societies at Yokohama and other Eastern ports, and read greetings which had been received by the Hongkong Society.

The message sent from Hongkong to Shanghai, Singapore, Kobe, Yokohama, Manila, and Tientsin ran as follows:—

"Hongkong brither Scots greet—brither Scots. Wood."

The following were the replies:—

From Manila:—"Chief Cadell and Manila Scots send kindly greeting to brither Scots in Hongkong. Hutton."

From Yokohama:—"President, your brither Scots send greeting."

From Shanghai:—"President Brodie Clark and brither Scots send hearty greeting."

From Tientsin:—"Greeting frae brither Scots. Tientsin."

From Singapore:—"Singapore Scots send kindly greeting to Hongkong brither Scots. St. Clair."

From Shanghai:—"Hoo's a' wi' ye?"

From Amoy:—"Here's tae us, wha's like us? Damn the ane, brither Scots! Admiral McShiney, MacMarshall, McSandy, Ahtom."

The whole arrangements were carried out most satisfactorily. Mr. David Wood filled the onerous duties of secretary, and he was ably assisted by energetic committees.

The different Committees were made up as follows:—

Invitation Committee.—Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, C.M.G., Captain Hon. H. W. F. Trefusis, Messrs. J. C. Peter, D. Gillies, E. J. Main, G. Stewart, A. M. Marshall, H. W. Robertson, R. L. Richardson, D. R. Law, G. W. F. Playfair, J. McG. Forbes, and David Wood, Hon. Sec. (Convener).

Supper and Wine.—Messrs. T. F. Hough (Convener), H. F. Carmichael, J. L. Houston, A. C. More, W. Ramsay, A. Rodger, J. Rodger, G. C. Fullerton, T. Skinner, Peter Dow, J. Maclehoose, C. Sherrington, A. F. Williamson, A. Ellis, M. Morrison, C. McD. Smart, A. Moir, Duncan Clark, W. Malcolm Watson, Maxwell Watson, F. Maitland, C. S. Sharp, and Hon. Sec.

Decorations.—Messrs. J. R. Mudie (Convener), R. Mitchell, E. J. Main, A. J. Ewing, W. Armstrong, J. W. Kinghorn, J. Kirkwood, Arch. Reid, W. C. Jack, J. I. Andrew, A. R. Grieve, J. Brownhill, P. W. Sergeant, Jas. Macdonald, Lt. W. L. Campbell, R.A., Lt. Gordon Ogilvie, R.A., John Dickie, Capt. A. Milroy, and Hon. Sec.

Dancing and Music.—Hon. J. J. Keswick, Captain E. A. Campbell, R.A., Messrs. G. C. Anderson, E. F. Mackay, J. H. C. McMurtrie, Alan Stewart, W. Nicholson, O. D. Thomson, A. Sinclair, R. F. Johnston, J. A. Mackay, Murray Stewart, H. W. Fraser, and Hon. Sec.

Card Room.—Hon. A. M. Thomson, Messrs. G. Murray Bain, D. E. Brown, J. R. M. Smith, A. Coutts, and Hon. Sec.

Ladies' Room.—Mr. D. R. Crawford and Dr. Young.

The following gentlemen acted as Stewards, —Capt. G. C. Anderson, Messrs. J. I. Andrew, W. Armstrong, G. Murray Bain, D. R. Braidwood, D. E. Brown, J. Brownhill, H. F. Carmichael (Capt.), E. A. Campbell, R.A., Lt. W. L. Campbell, R.A., Duncan Clark, T. P. Cochran, A. Coutts, D. R. Crawford, John Dickie, C. W. Dickson, Peter Dow, A. Ellis, A. J. Ewing, H. W. Fraser, J. Fulcher, G. C. Fullerton, David Gillies, J. Grant Smith, A. R. Grieve, T. F. Hough, J. L. Houston, W. C. Jack, R. F. Johnston, (Hon.) J. J. Keswick, J. W. Kinghorn, J. Kirkwood, D. R. Law, Jas. Macdonald, E. F. Mackay, J. A. Mackay, J. Maclehoose, A. Main, E. J. Main, F. Maitland, A. M. Marshall, J. H. C. McMurtrie, (Capt.) A. Milroy, R. Mitchell, A. Moir, A. C. More, M. Morrison, J. R. Mudie, W. Nicholson, (Lt.) Gordon Ogilvie, R.A., J. C. Peter, G. W. F. Playfair, W. Ramsay, Archibald Reid, R. L. Richardson, H. W. Robertson, A. Rodger, J. Rodger, P. W. Sergeant, C. S. Sharp, C. Sherrington, R. Shewan, A. Sinclair, T. Skinner, C. McD. Smart, J. R. M. Smith, Alan Stewart, Gershom Stewart, J. Stopani, J. H. Stewart Lockhart, C.M.G., Murray Stewart, W. Taylor, (Hon.) A. M. Thomson, O. D. Thomson, (Hon.) John Thurburn, (Capt. Hon.) H. W. F. Trefusis, W. Malcolm Watson, Maxwell Watson, A. F. Williamson, David Wood, Dr. Young, G. M. Young.

FIRE IN QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

SEVEN MEN INJURED.

At about three a.m. on the 2nd inst. a fire broke out in a two-storey building at 275, Queen's Road Central, the ground floor of which was used as an umbrella and shoe-shop, and the first and second floors as a store and dwelling-place. The fire originated in the ground floor, which was gutted, but the firemen were successful to a certain extent in confining it to that area. From their situation, however, the first and second floors inevitably suffered considerable damage. During the operation of subduing the fire, Sergeants McKay and Noble and P.C.'s Broomfield and Baker, who were standing on a sunshade playing water on the flames through a window, were precipitated to the ground by the sudden collapse of the sunshade, all four sustaining severe cuts and bruises. Three Chinese firemen standing immediately underneath were also injured by the fall of the sunshade. The seven were conveyed to the Government Civil Hospital, where it was found that, with the exception of one Chinese fireman whose foot is rather seriously injured, the hurts were trifling. The place on which the European constables were standing was an erection used as a protection against the sun, held in position by iron supports, which were altogether unable to bear the combined weight of four men, and collapsed, as already stated. The fire was eventually mastered, but not before considerable damage had been done. The loss was at first estimated at \$14,000, but is likely to be greatly below that figure. The house is insured for \$10,000 in the Northern German Insurance Company, which expects to be able to salvage a large quantity of the goods, and thus reduce the figure for damages. The fire is supposed to have been caused by the explosion of a kerosene lamp.

The China Inland Mission at Shanghai has made public the following news:—Telegraphic information has just come to hand that the C.I.M. agent at Tientsin had received a letter from Mr. Graham McKie from Pingyangfu in South Shansi, reporting the safety of Mrs. P. A. Ogren and infant, of the Misses M. E. Chapman and M. E. Way, and himself; also that Mr. P. A. Ogren had been murdered. Mr. McKie reports the native Christians to be starving, and beseeches help. There is every reason to believe that the above-named are the persons referred to in a telegraph from H.B.M. Consul at Tientsin to H.B.M. Consul-General here, stating, that from trustworthy sources he had learned that five or six English and Swedish missionaries were still alive in Taiyuanfu and under the Prefect's protection.

DARING ESCAPE FROM AMERICAN TRANSPORT "GRANT."

HANDCUFFED PRISONERS JUMP OVERBOARD.

On Tuesday, the 4th inst., the American transport *Grant* arrived in Victoria Harbour from the Philippines to take the body of the late Paymaster Barber, U.S. Navy, who died not long ago in Hongkong from typhoid fever, and whose body has been embalmed, to the United States for burial. The transport had on board a large number of military prisoners, who were being conveyed to the States. During the evening eight of these prisoners, with sentences ranging from one to ten years, escaped in the most daring manner. Handcuffed though they were, the men yet managed to crawl through the ventilator leading to their place of confinement, reaching the open air and comparative freedom. Having got so far, they broke the chains connecting their handcuffs, then secured lifebelts, and crawling down the anchor chains, dropped into the water, without waiting to lighten themselves by casting off their clothing. The strange part of the whole affair is that the men appear to have been entirely unnoticed by the sentries, if sentries there were. They swam in the direction of Commissariat Pier, just off which they were espied by the Chinese coxswain of the Commissariat launch *Jubilee*, who was the only man on board the vessel. He at once put out and picked the men up, and steamed for the jetty. On reaching the pier, and before the coxswain could take the necessary steps to prevent it, the eight men, probably now rendered desperate, sprang ashore from the launch, leaving their life-belts behind, and bolted up Queen's Road East, getting clear away.

The police were at once communicated with, and active steps taken to effect the recapture of the men. One, we believe, has been secured, the handcuffs still on his wrists, but the others are still at liberty, although it is improbable that they will remain so for long.

Later we hear that another of the escaped men was arrested at Wanchai on Wednesday evening, and has been detained at No. 2 Police Station pending instructions.

The *Grant* was to have sailed on the 5th inst. at 9.30 a.m., but her departure was delayed by the occurrence related above until next day.

Three more of the eight escaped prisoners have since been arrested. They were found hiding among rocks at Kennedytown, and offered no resistance. These, with the two captured on Tuesday, make five in all again under restraint. The remaining three are unlikely to remain long at liberty.

THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

The annual *al fresco* fête of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul passed off on Sunday night last most successfully. A very large number of visitors were present in the grounds of the Roman Catholic Cathedral from 9 o'clock onwards, and one and all appeared to be enjoying themselves. Ten-cent and dollar lotteries attracted much attention, and prominent citizens might have been seen during the course of the evening carrying large cushions, charmingly dressed dolls, plaster birds, and other useful and ornamental articles. Those in charge of the stalls worked hard and well, and their efforts appeared to be rewarded with plentiful returns of cash. The shooting-galleries drew a large number of sportsmen. The evening was very fine, and the band of the 3rd Madras Light Infantry played the following selection of music in their own excellent style:—

March "Under the Double Eagle" Wagner
Waltz "Ever and Ever Mine" Pougher
Selection... "The Geisha" Jones
Gavotte ... "Alexina" Asch
Polka "Fun of the Fair" Aigrette
Selection... "Lohengrin" Wagner

EXTRA.

Waltz "Santiago" Corbin
God save the Queen.

The net proceeds of the fête are estimated at about \$2,100. We are requested by the secretary to convey the thanks of the Society to the public for their generous support.

The Society has been in existence for many years and has always, in a quiet and unostenta-

tious way, done a good deal of charitable work among the European and Chinese poor of this Colony. It thoroughly deserves the help of the public. The proceeds of last year's fête were \$2,082.68. To this has to be added \$214.45 net proceeds of an entertainment at the Club Lusitano, got up by Mrs. Guedes. The following is a summary of the doings of the Society during 1899:—

Allowance in Cash	\$649.50
" " Provisions	573.25
Contribution to the Catholic Orphanage	300.00
Contribution to the Home for the Aged and Infirm	200.00
Shoes for Orphanage boys	76.00
Medicine	9.16
Burials for the poor	69.00

In addition to the above the Society undertook the alteration and extension of the hospital for the sick poor under the charge of the Italian Sisters of Charity at Wanchai, the cost of which amounted to \$2,194.

ARRIVAL OF EARL BEAUCHAMP IN HONGKONG.

The Rt. Hon. Earl Beauchamp, late Governor of New South Wales, arrived on Thursday in Hongkong by the *Australian*, and put up at the Hongkong Hotel, leaving again by the *Sobraon* to-day for Singapore. Lord Beauchamp's term of office in New South Wales was a short one, as he only arrived in July, 1899. It was officially stated before he left Australia that in departing so soon he considered that such a course was best in view of the desire of each colony to rearrange its local Governorship. The *Sydney Morning Herald*, commenting on his departure, says that if his period of office has been a short one, it cannot be said that it has been an idle time. "Indeed, his Excellency has participated in some history-moulding events in this the mother colony of the group," our contemporary continues. "He was not long here before the political horizon was overcast, and when the storm burst it was to the accompaniment of the wreck of the Reid Ministry. Lord Beauchamp had to decide whether a dissolution of Parliament should follow, and his decision was in the negative. He sent for Sir William (then Mr.) Lyne, and that gentlemen formed a Government which is still in power. The Governor also saw, from an Australian coign, the practical completion of the Federal Constitution—the making of a new nation—an epoch-marking event which is sufficiently gigantic and unique to be in itself a cherished memory; but in addition his was the Governorship when Australia poured her soldiers out to help the Empire's cause in South Africa, and his was the Governorship, too, during that very bold act of administration—the uprooting of houses and resumption of property for the purposes of stamping out the bubonic plague. Lord Beauchamp has, it is safe to say, seen more of New South Wales and Australasia in 15 months than any of his predecessors did. He thoroughly explored the North Coast districts, journeyed across the west to Broken Hill, visited New Zealand and some of the islands, and made many incursions to the interior of the colony."

Lord Beauchamp was born in 1872, and educated at Eton and Christchurch, Oxford. Before coming out to Australia he served as Mayor of Worcester, being one of the youngest Mayors on record. He is unmarried, and during his stay at Sydney his sister, Lady Mary Lygon shared with him the social responsibilities of his position. Our Australian contemporary records that in addition to being a considerable traveller, he evinced great interest in matters appertaining to the Church, art, music, education (particularly technical education), and some aspects of sport. He was Commodore of the Royal Yacht Squadron at Sydney and was owner of a yacht.

Captains H. J. Cotter, 21st Company R.G.A.; J. R. Wilson, 90th Battery R.F.A.; F. B. D. Broadrick, 97th Battery R.F.A.; and E. S. E. W. Russell, "Y" Battery R.H.A., have been selected for service with the 1-pounder Vickers-Maxim guns in China. Those officers were last month ordered to proceed to the works of Messrs. Vickers, Sons, and Maxim, at Erith, for a course of instruction, and then to join the Maxim gun detachments concentrating for duty at Woolwich pending embarkation.

LADY BLAKE AT THE WOMAN'S CONFERENCE, SHANGHAI.

The closing address delivered by Lady Blake at the final mixed meeting on the Woman's Conference, Shanghai, on Friday fortnight, is published in the *N.-C. Daily News*. Lady Blake said:—

I thank you all most heartily for passing a vote of thanks to me for an act that needed no thanks, namely for having come up here to have the privilege and pleasure of learning so much that is new and interesting to me, and, I hope I may add, of having made some new friends amongst you all. We have now concluded the consideration of the subjects that were selected for discussion at this conference on the Home Life of Chinese Women. We have all, I am sure, been keenly interested in the excellent papers and addresses with which we have been favoured, containing so much information from all parts of this vast Empire, that must have been new to many of us. I regret to find that the lot of Chinese women—especially of the lower classes—appears on closer observation even a less agreeable one than I had thought. The hard fate of so many of the slave-girls, for example, must excite the pity and sympathy of all men and women not altogether selfishly insensible to sufferings from which they are exempt. But while we have been gazing on a good deal of the darker side of the lives of the women and girls of China, we must not forget that shadows cannot exist without light, so there must be a bright side in life for many Chinese women, and some of the papers read have shown us that no small number of Chinese ladies, independently of European influences, extend noble-minded and practical charity to those amongst their humbler neighbours who may stand in need of such assistance. Possibly some of us may be too apt to judge the better classes of the Chinese by the standards of the lower orders, with whom as a general rule Europeans are chiefly thrown. How would the denizens of our ancient cathedral closes, or the occupants of our manor houses at home, like foreigners to judge them by the standard of the inhabitants of the lower stratum of our society and the waifs and strays who too often in other lands bring the reverse of credit on their country? I cannot help hoping likewise that as habit becomes second nature—and that to which we are accustomed seemed less dreadful, even when intrinsically as bad—so some things that to us would make existence a purgatory, may not be quite so terrible to the women of China, as they appear to us. I would fain hope that even in such a matter as foot-binding, there may be some alleviation to the sufferings of those who practise it, in the pride that is said to feel no pain. Of the deleterious effects of the practice—physically and mentally—there can be no doubt, and it is most satisfactory to find that the spark of resistance to the fashion of foot-binding has been kindled in many parts of China. As new ideas permeate the empire, I have no doubt the women of China will not be greater slaves to undesirable fashions or customs than are the women of other lands. The greater number of the ills and discomforts in the lives of Chinese women, I cannot help thinking, must be eradicated by the woman of China themselves, all that outsiders can do is to place the means of doing so within their reach. As year by year the number increases of cultivated and enlightened Chinese ladies, trained in Western science and modes of thought, while retaining their own distinctive characteristics—so will each of them prove a stronger centre from which rays of good influence will reach out to their countrywomen. I was once given a flower that had rather a remarkable history. I was told that somewhere in Greece, a mine had been found that was supposed to have been worked by the ancient Greeks. Its site was marked by great heaps of rocks and refuse. The Greeks of old, great as was their genius, which in some ways exceeded that of modern days—were not acquainted with a great deal that science has revealed to us, and in examining these heaps of stones and rubbish flung out of the mine in days of old—it was found that most of it contained ore, the presence of which had never before been suspected,

but which was sufficient in amount to make it worth while submitting the refuse to a process that would extract the latent wealth. So the great heaps of stone were removed, for smelting or some such process, and when they were taken away, from the ground beneath them sprang up plants, which in due time were covered with beautiful small yellow poppies of a kind not previously known to gardeners. It was supposed that the seed of the flowers must have lain hidden in the earth for centuries. May it not be like this with China? In her bosom have long lain dormant the seeds of what we call progress, which have been kept from germinating by the superincumbent weight of ideas, which—while they may contain in themselves some ore worth extracting—must be refined in order to be preserved, and must be uplifted in order to enable the flowers of truth, purity, and happiness to flourish in the land. Two of the heaviest rubbish heaps that crush down the blossom progress are ignorance and prejudice. I trust that the Conference we have just held may prove of some use in removing them.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 1st December.

RETURN OF THE BLACK FLAG GENERAL.

The Black Flag general, Lin Yungfu, has returned to Canton and made calls upon Acting Viceroy Taksoy and other officials. On his way back, when between Ching Yün and Ying Tak, he sighted several boats, and on enquiry was told that they belonged to certain pirates, who levied blackmail upon the cargo and passenger-boats on that route. Thereupon he ordered all the black flags on board to be taken down, and made his boats look like merchant vessels, preparing all the guns and rifles for a fight. On approaching the pirates his fleet fired into them. The pirates were quite unprepared and Liu Yung-fu killed several of them, bringing two back as proof of his deed. It is said that he and his soldiers will shortly proceed by order of the Viceroy to Waichow, Chingyün, Fayün, and Chütaoshan, to destroy the pirates and Triad Society men.

A NEW CANTON COMPANY.

A certain great capitalist, by name Fung Pak Lum, of the Sai Kwan district, is going to start a company (for Canton is now full of enterprise, and the Chinese authorities are about to farm out all descriptions of business to raise money) to take a monopoly of the Kuk-fao floating brothels and flower-boats, as well as all the brothels on shore. The company is to receive the name of "The Society for the Protection of Women and Girls." Fung Pak Lum estimates that his earnings will be immense, many applications having been sent in for shares. He has sent a petition to the Viceroy, and is awaiting an answer. This enterprise will probably be successful on account of the straitened circumstances in which the Government finds itself.

A FAMILY MURDERED AT HEUNGSHAN.

On the 25th ult. at 7 p.m. two thieves went into the family house of Lao Shang-sam at Heungshan and murdered eight persons—the wife, who was *eniente*, three sons aged three, four, and six years respectively, two daughters, and two servant-girls; the husband being absent. Late in the following morning one of the neighbours, who saw the door still shut, knocked and, hearing no answer to her summons, suspecting something wrong, called other neighbours, and with their help burst open the door. On entering they found dead bodies lying about in pools of blood on the ground. One of the servant-girls, aged twelve, who was seriously wounded, was alive and still able to relate the perpetration of the cruel deed. She said that on the evening in question a man came into the house to await the return of her master Lao Shang Sam, who was in a pawnshop, to talk about business. Her mistress made tea to entertain him, and kept him to dinner. Shortly afterwards another man, who was dressed in a long coat, also came in, and the two then proceeded to kill the whole family. The same girl also died of her wounds the next day. This is what the Chinese call the murder of nine lives and eight dead bodies. The affair was reported to the Magistrate, who held an inquest and ordered

the burial of the bodies. It is said that the murder was an act of revenge; had the husband been at home he would have been killed too.

PEKING AND TIENTSIN NEWS.

The following items are from the *P. & T. Times* of the 24th ult. :—

River traffic with Tung-Chow has been suspended.

The Medical College here is endeavouring to re-open, and get fresh members to supply the place of those who have left.

Yü Che-yuen, President of one of the Boards, has reached Nanking, and handed Viceroy Liu a special Edict from the Court.

Auctions of furs, silks and curios are held twice a week now in the Lyceum Theatre by Messrs. Doney and Moller, and continue to attract crowds.

The *Chih Pao* states that the newly organised Board of Revenue in Peking received Tls. 600,000 on the 11th through the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank from the South.

The British Authorities are reported to have discovered three Honan officials who were known to have enlisted Boxers, Governor Yü, a Brigadier-General and another.

From private sources we learn there are numbers of Boxers secretly practicing their arts in the City, and that the gentry dare not report them for fear of being assassinated.

We hear that the Peking line, which may be completed in about a month's time, will be run through the wall into Chinese City with a terminus near the Temple of Heaven. Good!

Capt. Wingate, accompanying a survey and reconnaissance party comprising detachments of the 16th Bengal Lancers and 24th Punjab Infantry, left Peking on the 12th instant, taking one month's rations.

The *Chih Pao* states that fifteen petty officials of the Court signified their willingness to secretly accompany the Emperor back to Peking, but the Dowager hearing of the plot had them seized and beaten to death.

The Chinese gentry in the Nativ City are considering some new methods of dealing with fires that occur in the City, and of summoning the firemen, as they are afraid to practice the former custom of calling the firemen together by beating gongs, lest it create disturbance with the foreign troops.

Chên Shu-ping, a Military official who surrendered to the Allies when Tientsin City was taken, and undertook to trace out Boxers for the Provisional Government, is said by the *Chih Pao* to be chiefly occupied in squeezing for his own interests, and is making a good thing out of any Chinese he can terrorise into giving him money.

A telegram was received at British headquarters here to the effect that the messenger from Taiyuenfu had been sent to Paoingfu to report the arrival in the former place of five or six English and Swedish Missionaries who were believed to be dead. They had taken refuge in the mountains, and had been discovered and brought back by the Prefect of Taiyuenfu who is now anxious to escort them to the coast. The name of only one missionary is given, Graham McKie. The Military Authorities at once notified the British Consul and the C.I.M.

The French Consul-General issued an express on Thursday to the effect that the French Concession has been extended from the present dividing line of the British and French Concessions to the mud-wall, and thence to the boundary line of the Japanese Concession and river at Machiaku, including all the territory and properties within these lines. The notice nullifies all contracts made since the 17th June, and invites all holders of title-deeds prior to that date to take their documents to the French Consulate to have them registered. We anticipate that some discussion will ensue in consequence of this abrupt announcement.

Mr. Pyke who has just returned from Peitaiho, confirms the previous reports of the destruction at that place. All the sheet iron and timber of the roofs, and every scrap of wood has been carried away or burnt. The dressed stones except those in the walls at the floor line, have also been hauled away. All the houses are very much alike and it would make a Peitaihoite sick at heart to see the roofless, broken walls of their before beautiful cottages. All the testimony gathered during a two

days' stay in the neighbourhood, confirms the reports that the villagers, tradesmen and gentry in the immediate vicinity did the looting and burning. The work of destruction began within two hours of the withdrawal of the guard and ended June 25th. There were neither Boxers nor troops to speak of, the people alone being guilty, and they should be made to suffer severely.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

EVANGELISING THE CHINESE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 30th November.

DEAR SIR,—With reference to Mr. Banister's remark in his address at the meeting of the Annual Conference of the Church Mission Society, as to the intense materialism of the Chinese, which rendered the soil of Hongkong an unkindly soil for missionary work, I quite concur with Mr. Banister, for I find a great majority of the native Christians become unconverted as soon as they find themselves able to get on in this world without missionary assistance. Dr. Legge and Bishop Alford laboured hard to convert the Chinese, and when the St. Paul's College was under their management a good many illustrious scholars were brought up and educated by them in the English language; but I now ask, how many of them still adhere to the Christian faith? H. E. Wu Ting Fang, the present Chinese Minister at Washington, H. E. Lo Feng Luh, the present Chinese Minister at London, Mr. Ho Yow, the Chinese Consul-General at San Francisco, and Mr. Ma Kin Chung, late director of the China Merchants' Steamship Company, formerly were converts, but all now seem to have abandoned the Christian faith and become apostles of the Materialist. H. E. Wu Ting Fang told the American people that if the Christian ladder was the only way that leads to heaven he was sorry it was too narrow for him, and in his concluding speech he asked his hearers to show him a real Christian. The other three gentlemen made similar anti-Christian speeches at different parts of the world, and they all avowed that they are ardent disciples of Confucius. There is not the slightest doubt that when a Chinaman becomes a convert in China, he gains many advantages over his heathen countrymen, but in a free British colony like Hongkong, where missionary aggression is not tolerated, he generally assumes his true colours and does not hesitate to tell the public that in his heart of hearts he is a true Chinaman.

Three years ago I witnessed in Hongkong a gigantic funeral procession done in a proper Chinese style, with Buddhist and Taoist priests and nuns saying prayers along the route, and on enquiring I found the deceased was wife of the celebrated Chinese millionaire pastor who once adorned the pulpits of the London mission chapels. This lady during her life time was supposed to be one of the most devoted Chinese converts, and the public were surprised to find that a heathen burial ceremony was chosen on this occasion. Under the above circumstances I think missionary work in Hongkong is very difficult indeed.—Yours, etc.,

JOHN CHINAMAN.

THE CASE OF KING LIEN-SHAN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Macao, 30th November.

SIR,—It may be remembered that last February, nearly a year ago, something was said in the Hongkong and Shanghai papers concerning the former Director of the Chinese Telegraph Co. at Shanghai, who was arrested at Macao and detained pending the question of his extradition. It may now interest some of your readers that the unfortunate individual, King Lien-shan, is still in prison, whatever has become of the question of his extradition. His grievance is no slight one, and is well worth the sympathy of the foreign residents in China and indeed of all friends of justice. Events in

China, subsequent to King's arrest, have been of such a nature as very effectively to distract public attention and preoccupation from a personal grievance; otherwise the case of King would certainly have brought forth a strong protest of righteous indignation.

The facts of his case are very simple. When the Empress Dowager at the beginning of this year contemplated and even decreed the deposition of the Emperor, the manager of the Telegraph Co., a prominent member of the Chinese community at Shanghai, headed the list of signatories to the telegram of protest, sent by prominent Chinese of Shanghai and other ports. That action brought upon him the indignation of the Dowager and her ministers, and Sheng Taotai was ordered to produce the offender. King consulted his safety by flight, and took an early steamer for Hongkong. He was ill-advised enough, however, for some reason or other, to come to Macao. There, according to his own statement, he received word that the acting Viceroy of Nanking desired to see him, and trusting to that official's goodwill and sincerity, he was about to leave for Shanghai, when he was unexpectedly arrested here at the request of Li Hung-chang. Trusting still in the justice of his cause and the sincerity of high officials, he says that he wanted to proceed at once to Canton to present himself to the Viceroy. His friends, however, better advised perhaps, persuaded him to the contrary; and then, once arrested, he was a Portuguese prisoner, and was not free to leave Macao.

When he was arrested, those who were familiar with Portuguese jurisprudence said that he could not be detained beyond eight days; at the end of which time he would have to be set free, if not previously extradited.

Eight days passed, and King remained in prison. Months passed, and the question still dragged on. Governor Galhardo went away, and left King in prison. Then came the memorable events in the north. Finally the case got out of the court, and the report of that tribunal was submitted to the Council governing *ad interim*. That body did not see fit to take it upon itself to set the prisoner free, and the case was referred, with all the documents, to Lisbon.

Then came another spell of waiting. The new Governor came, but there was no news for the prisoner of the mountain. He passed the hot summer in confinement, and there he is still at the approach of winter, without a word from the Portuguese capital to show that any notice is taken of his case. It is true he is not treated badly. He has the liberty of the Monte Fort, but being old and infirm, and accustomed to the conveniences and amenities of home life, with his family around him, he feels his confinement very much.

Moreover, there would seem to be no further reason for his detention. The Dowager and her friends have enough to think of, without caring for the punishment of an offence which events have thrown into the background.

Hoping that this statement of Mr. King's grievance may interest some of your readers, I am, yours, etc.

X.

GERMAN DECORATIONS IN CHINA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 5th December.

SIR.—There must be some mistake in your statement to-day from the *Cologne Gazette* about the award of second class military honour decorations by the German Emperor.

The decoration was not awarded to all the men who took part in the different places; only the crew of the *Illis*, 101 non-commissioned officers, petty officers and men, got it as a whole.

Altogether 266 decorations of this class (not 248) have been awarded, so that 165 have been distributed on the different landing parties.

For these 165 decorations there were in competitions, officers always excluded:—

	Men
With Admiral Seymour, under Capt. v. Usedom	486
Taku storming-party, under Capt. Pohl	about 145
Tientsin garrison, before capture of Taku	about 106

	Men
Tientsin garrison, later on move: 1 company, marines	240
Tientsin garrison, later on move: Transport and Engineers' Staff	30

Altogether, without officers 1,007 at least.

Yours sincerely,

ROLLMANN,

Capt. S. M. S. *Cefion*.

[The statement to which our correspondent refers appears in the home papers, which quote the *Cologne Gazette* as their authority. Unfortunately we cannot refer to the original statement in the *Cologne* journal. We are glad to be able to publish Capt. Rollmann's correction—Ed. D.P.]

A. S. WATSON AND CO., LIMITED.

On Tuesday, 4th inst., at noon, an extraordinary general meeting of shareholders in the above company was held at the Company's Office, Queen's Road Central. Mr. Hart Buck presided, and there were also present, Messrs. C. Ewens (solicitor to the company), A. H. Mancell (secretary), G. Murray Bain, J. S. Hagen, J. A. Tarrant, E. H. Joseph, and W. E. Clement.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, this meeting has been called, as stated in the notice just read, for the purpose of adopting certain new regulations, a draft copy of which has been open to your inspection in the Company's Office since the 24th November. These new regulations do not in any way affect the clauses contained in the original Articles of Association which define the objects of the Company, nor those parts of the Articles which would have been included in the Memorandum of Association, if a separate Memorandum had been registered. The reason why new Articles of Association are required is that certain changes are considered necessary from the old articles which were drawn up in 1885, when the management of the Company was vested solely in your late general manager, Mr. John D. Humphreys. For instance, the old articles did not give us power to appoint a Consulting Committee, a course which we are desirous of taking. The principal changes between the old articles and the new articles, which we are now considering, are: The remuneration of the General Managers, the increase in the number of qualification shares necessary to be held by the General Managers, the change in the working of the London Agency, and the appointment of a Consulting Committee. These changes are dealt with in paragraphs 80, 81, 82, and 87 respectively. The other alterations made are not important and consist mainly of the substitution of the name of John D. Humphreys and Son, the present general managers, for that of John David Humphreys, the late general manager, where such changes are necessary. I think, gentlemen, that the revised Articles of Association now before you will be found under the existing altered conditions of the working of the Company to be more useful and more practical than the old articles, and also more profitable to the Company's interests generally. Before proceeding to move the adoption of the new Articles I shall be pleased to answer any question referring to them.

There being no questions the CHAIRMAN proposed:—That the Regulations approved by this meeting and for the purposes of identification subscribed by the General Managers be and the same are hereby approved. And that such Regulations be and they are hereby adopted as the Regulations of the Company to the exclusion of all existing Regulations thereof.

Mr. MURRAY BAIN—I have great pleasure in seconding the resolution, the object of which is to introduce these changes in the regulations.

The resolution was carried.

The CHAIRMAN—There will be a confirmatory meeting of which you will receive due notice. I thank you very much for your attendance.

Captain Moseley, who has been appointed Deputy Consul-General for the United States of America in the Straits Settlements, is a brother of the late Dr. Moseley, who died at Yokohama on the 14th ult.

SUPREME COURT.

Saturday, 1st December.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR JOHN CARRINGTON, C.M.G. (CHIEF JUSTICE).

HOWARD AND STEPHENS V. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

The Chief Justice gave judgment in this case. The plaintiffs were represented by Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. Stephens) and the Attorney-General (the Hon. W. Meigh Goodman, Q.C.) appeared in person, instructed by the Crown Solicitor (Mr. F. B. L. Bowley).

The Chief Justice said:—In this case the Court is called upon to determine the following issue of law:—"Assuming all the facts stated in the Petition to be true and having regard to the provisions of the Praya Reclamation Ordinance, 1889, has the Court jurisdiction to inquire into the proceedings connected with the award referred to in the Petition and to set aside the said award and declare it null and void?"

For the purpose of determining this issue I think it will be convenient in the first place to state the facts set out in the Petition, in the second place to state the provisions of the Praya Reclamation Ordinance, 1889, so far as they have any bearing on the issue, and, lastly, to state the conclusions to which an examination of the facts and of the Ordinance seems properly to lead.

As the facts set out in the Petition are to be taken as true, I will state them in the form of a narrative, in the same manner as if I were setting forth findings established by evidence.

The plaintiffs were until quite recently the Crown lessees and the owners and occupiers as tenants in common of Marine Lot No. 184 in the City of Victoria. There were godowns erected on the Lot and the plaintiffs carried on there the business of godown-keepers.

The Lot is situate in the western district of the City, and from the time when the Crown lease for it was granted, that is, in 1884, until about April, 1898, it abutted on the north side for a length of 100 feet on the Praya, and was only separated from the sea in the Harbour by the Praya. At that point the Praya was about 50 feet wide.

Until the construction of the reclamation works which will be presently mentioned, the sea in the Harbour came at all times of the tide to the foot of the sea-wall bounding the Praya, and the plaintiffs were able, at all times of the day and night and at all states of the tide, to bring cargo-boats to the sea-wall, to load and unload goods into and from them, and to convey such goods easily and cheaply from and into their godowns.

About the year 1891 the Governor, acting under the authority of the Ordinance already mentioned, commenced to construct an embankment along the Harbour front of the City, from a point to the westward of the plaintiffs' Lot to a point to the eastward of it, and to construct a sea-wall, and to reclaim and fill in the foreshore and bed of the Harbour between the Praya and the new embankment and sea-wall. Those works have been carried on ever since and are still being carried on, and the result of them, as far as the plaintiffs' Lot is concerned, has been that the Lot has been converted from a Marine Lot into an Inland Lot; it no longer abuts on the Praya or sea road, and no longer has any direct access to the sea, but is separated from it by the old Praya, by a piece of reclaimed land, the property of the Crown, of about 185 feet in width, and by the new Praya and sea-wall, of about 75 feet in width.

During the progress of these works the plaintiffs' access to the sea along the whole front of their Lot was seriously impeded and diminished, and they suffered heavy losses in their business as godown-keepers, and upon the completion of the works the Lot was seriously depreciated in value by being entirely shut out from direct access to the sea and by being converted from a Marine into an Inland Lot.

By the diminution of their business during the construction of the works the plaintiffs suffered a loss of about \$25,000, and by the depreciation in value of their Lot they suffered a further loss of about \$90,000. Before the

from the right wing, but shot over the bar. The club appeared to have plucked up considerably, and play as a consequence was not of the one-sided character that marked it at the start. Looker, whose ankle had been hurt at the last visit of the Siege Train forwards, now changed places with Kew, and was presently called upon to save a beauty from Phinn, who makes a splendid centre forward. Hongkong could not, however, get away, and a sharp tussle ensued, which ended in Woods sending the ball over. Swettenham and Clapham returned the compliment by giving Field a look-up. They were, however, hustled into shooting wide of the mark. Play for a period now assumed a kind of turn-and-turn-about aspect, first Looker, then Field, being visited. The honours, however, lay with the Siege Train, their forwards repeatedly calling upon the Hongkong custodian whose goal, time and again, looked to be on the point of falling. Fortune favoured the ground men, however, and not once was the leather netted. Kew, in his new role of right back, seemed to have found an element natural to him, and was responsible in no small measure for the abortiveness of the attack. Russell also proved invaluable. Pinckney, who usually plays full back, seemed to be out of place as centre-half, and was not nearly up to his usual. His kicking was weak and erratic, and he appeared to lack life. Swettenham, outside right, was making far and away the best show among the club eleven. He sent in a hard ball that Field saved very neatly. The Siege Train custodian's fancy work in goal appeared to give the Tommies witnessing the game unlimited amusement and satisfaction, judging by the encouraging shouts and laughter that greeted each display. Field, who was undoubtedly "playing to the gallery," would catch the ball when sent in, then, striking it on and off the ground as he went, run round the Hongkong forwards, dexterously throwing the ball over a man's head when he tried to rush him, and quickly regaining possession of it again. When he had fooled the Hongkong forwards to his heart's content, he would kick the ball out and strut back to his place. It was certainly neat, but not altogether safe, play. Half-time arrived without either side having scored.

The change of positions did not see any alteration in the tactics of the Siege Train. As at the commencement of the game, their forwards captured the ball immediately on its being kicked off. Looker saved, and sent the ball to Swettenham, on the outside right, who, besides knowing his place in football, can sprint to some purpose. He easily outpaced Woods, but was tackled by Ryan and lost the ball, which he should have given to Clapham, instead of attempting to run the gauntlet singlehanded. Woods got a high ball from Phinn, and headed cleverly almost into goal, the ground men being lucky in getting the leather out. The Hongkong right wing again captured, Clapham and Swettenham, who work well together, manoeuvring past the opposition. The former, however, sent the ball "topside" of the bar. From a scrimmage in midfield, the right wing of the Siege Train emerged with the ball in their possession, and a second or so after the referee blew his whistle for one of the forwards being off-side, the ball was netted by Bond. The goal, of course, was disallowed. In reality, Looker heard the whistle and did not attempt to save, otherwise the ball probably never would have got through. One fault of the Siege Train men was that they played too much to the spectators, and lost many a good opening that play with less frills to it would have scored off. The Siege Train got a corner from Hongkong, which proved unproductive. Continuing their hard pressing, the soldiers again converged towards Looker's goal, and netted the ball. The goal was again disallowed on the ground of its being off side. Swettenham once more got away for his side, but Woods blocked, and a corner resulted. The corner was kicked with precision and almost got the leather through, but the Siege Train custodian again introduced his ornamental "gallery" play, and succeeded in ridding his goal of an unwelcome crowd of visitors. The ground to a certain extent now turned the tables, and kept the leather in Siege Train territory for a considerable time, but with the identical results that had attended their opponents' attacking—the ball was either blocked

by the backs or sent to the outside of the post. Within about five minutes of time the game assumed very exciting proportions. With the evident and very natural determination to have something to show for the splendid play, the Siege Train forwards redoubled their efforts, and attacked with such determined persistency that it is scarcely conceivable how they did not get the ball through not only once, but time and again. Kew and Russell worked like niggers, and the forwards kept dancing about here and there, occasionally capturing the ball and relieving the dangerous and well-sustained attacks of the Siege Train forwards by timely spurts up-field, invariably, however, losing the ball to either the halfbacks or backs who fed their forwards splendidly. In one of these breaks, Swettenham succeeded in defeating Woods, and keeping the ball at his feet, successfully downed first one man and then another of the Siege Train defence. It lasted only a minute, perhaps less, of time, and no one on the field probably expected to see Swettenham get through. But he did, and what is more, he individually dribbled and worked that ball up to the touch line, and netted it before Field had recovered from his surprise. The whistle sounded a few seconds later. The club thus emerged from one of the best games that Happy Valley has seen lucky winners by one goal to nil. Swettenham deserved his goal. He was the best man on the club's side, and, ably supported by Clapham, blocked many a splendid try. Kew and Russell's work as right and left backs respectively needs no praise. They were the right men in the right place. Of the Siege Train men, it is hard to make a selection of individual merit, they all worked so splendidly. Phinn, however, if any one excelled, was the man. He is also a capital sprinter. The Siege Train deserved to win, but they did not, and there the matter ends.

Mr. J. Ross was referee.

H.K.F.C. V. 25TH COY. R.A.,

EASTERN DIVISION.

Played at Happy Valley on Monday afternoon, in fine weather. The teams were:—

Hongkong:—Goal—W. H. Howard; backs—C. T. Kew and W. H. Russell; half-backs—S. Jenkins, G. Bonnar, and A. Porter; forwards—Lt. Swettenham, R.A., Lt. Clapham, R.G.A., Noble, J. J. Wild, and Lt. Browne, R.E.

R.A.:—Goal—Parsons; backs—Wilkins and Spence; half-backs—Letten, Mullis, and Gurney; forwards—Lieut. Lewis, French, Gartland, Hare, and Chapman.

Hongkong kicked off, and after a series of encounters in mid-field, the ball was manoeuvred up to Howard's charge, an unproductive corner resulting. Swettenham captured and the ball was passed from one to another of the forwards and finally relinquished to Browne, who shot. Wilkins saved, and Wild, who recaptured, sent the ball to the outside of Parsons' goal. The six yards kick saw the leather taken charge of by Bonnar, who, after a plucky run up-field, lost to Mullis. Jenkins, who was playing a strong game, blocked a spurt by the R.A. forwards, and passed to Swettenham, who in turn gave the ball to Clapham. The latter, however, failed to accept the pass, and the ball was sent out by Gurney. Swettenham and Clapham were giving a good exhibition of combined play, and seem to be suited to each other. Jenkins and Bonnar, right and centre halves respectively, and Kew, full right back, also put in some telling work, and their defence could not be easily surpassed. The R.A. were the weaker team all round, although Wilkins and Spence did a great deal to retrieve that inferiority. Hongkong, almost throughout the entire game, kept the ball in their opponents' territory, and sent in some neat shots that Parsons just as cleverly returned. Browne fluked three corners, two in succession. On every occasion he topped the net. Half-time arrived without either team having scored, but in the second half, continuing their aggressive tactics, Hongkong succeeded in evading Parsons no less than three times—Noble being responsible for two goals and Bonnar for one. The game, by no means the best that Happy Valley has seen, thus ended in a win for Hongkong by three goals to nil.

In H. E. Graham's absence, Howard played goal in the first half and Porter in the second.

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

On the 24th ult., there being no regular race set down for decision, a few owners arranged to sail a handicap race for a sweepstake round course No. 8 via Channel Rocks, Kowloon Rock, Meyers East Buoy, twice round, leaving all marks to port.

The following were the entries and handicap:—

	min.	secs.
Bonito }	allow	
Iris }	1	10
Maid Marian	1	30
Doreen	1	50
Gloria }	4	30
Meteor		
Sybil		

There was a fresh easterly breeze and a gentle ebb tide all the afternoon. The start was somewhat impeded by the wreck of a large junk, a victim of the late typhoon which is still lying right in the starting line, a serious obstruction to navigation; but all the above-mentioned yachts, with the exception of Doreen, which repeated her last year's performance of dropping her rudder, got safely away, fairly level. It was a dead thrash to Channel Rocks, and some of the older boats found they had a trifle too much sail for comfort. The Iris and Bonito, however, stood well up to their canvas, and taking the better course, had established a good lead on the rest by the time the first mark was reached. Iris got away at first, but Bonito caught her off North Point and was never again headed. Bonito seems a greatly improved boat this year, for while maintaining the undoubted superiority she showed to windward last year, she appears far less sluggish than formerly. Maid Marian went well to start with, but extinguished her chance by taking a long board into Kowloon Bay, where she got out of both wind and tide.

The times at the finish were:—

	Hrs.	Mins.	Secs.
Bonito	3	19	40
Iris	3	20	15
Maid Marian	3	23	30
Meteor	3	25	25
Gloria	3	31	0
Sybil	3	41	0

BOWLING.

CLUB GERMANIA V. HONGKONG CLUB.

The following are the grand total scores in the match played on Monday and Tuesday between the above-named clubs:—

CLUB GERMANIA.

A. Rombach	1617
E. Mirow	1357
A. Thiessen	1620
T. Wacker	1390
	5984
T. Engel	1395
E. Volbrecht	1488
J. Wahlen	1490
W. O. C. Spatzhaver	1652
	6025
	12009

HONGKONG CLUB.

F. Maitland	1497
A. M. Marshall	1306
J. Hooper	1443
R. J. Gerrard	1598
	5784
K. W. Mounsey	1625
Hon. A. M. Thomson	1349
Capt. W. Warren, R.A.	1388
H. Hill, R.W.F.	1489
	5851
	11635

PRESIDENT'S BOWLS AT KOWLOON.

The Draw for the second round of the above Competition resulted as follows:—

Main and Rutter, Ewing and Kinghorn, Belson and Wilson, Deas and Guy, Kyles and Galt, Lammert and Ritchie, Andrews and Petrie, Williams and Lambert, Murchie and S. Wilson, McKenzie and Allan, Milroy and Jno. Henderson, Auld and Watson, Fockin and Ramsay, McBain and Roberts. Jas. Henderson a bye.

Last week there was reported, beside the two fatal plague cases, only one case of communicable disease, viz. one of enteric fever in the City of Victoria. This proved fatal.

BOXING EXHIBITION AT THE CITY HALL.

THE HEAVY-WEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE EAST.

On Wednesday night an exhibition of boxing arranged by the Lieutenant Commander of H.M.S. *Pigmy* and Mr. Downs, of the Kowloon Hotel, took place in the City Hall in the presence of a large audience. The event of the evening was a contest between Con Sheehan, of H.M.S. *Tamar*, and James Harvey, of H.M.S. *Pigmy*, for the heavy-weight championship of the East, for a purse and \$200 side stakes. Before this came off the audience were treated to a few exhibitions, Charles Wood, of H.M.S. *Otter*, meeting Ernest Wackett, of H.M.S. *Pigmy*; Patsy Watkins, of H.M.S. *Undaunted*, meeting Tim Baily, of the same ship; and Sergeant Notman, of the R.W.F., meeting Sergeant Davis, of the R.W.F. Mr. Walters was the referee in the side shows.

In the event of the evening Lieut.-Commander Holden, of the *Handy*, acted as referee. Three-ounce gloves were used, and 20 rounds of three minutes each were arranged. The fight was one of the toughest witnessed in the colony for some time. The men were very evenly matched, and as round after round was fought it was difficult to say who would prove the victor. In the third round Sheehan was floored, Harvey going down immediately afterwards. Subsequently Harvey got in some good hits, and in the twelfth round he got his opponent on to the ropes and would undoubtedly have downed him, but Sheehan, in order to save himself, committed a foul, grasping Harvey round the waist, and Harvey, who fought fairly throughout, was declared the victor. The affair was well worth watching.

BOATING.

SCRATCH RACE.

On the 29th ult. a scratch race in connection with the Hongkong Boat Club took place over the Regatta Course, a distance of three-quarters of a mile. The following crews competed:—

No. 1.—S. Stevens (bow), A. Fredericks, E. Carpenter, E. Herbst (stroke), F. White (cox.) (Station No. 2).

No. 2.—F. D. Bain (bow), A. Wicker, L. Lambotte, C. Hance (stroke), J. R. Hance (cox.) (Station No. 3).

No. 3.—T. Wild (bow), H. Kennet, A. Pappier, A. Ellis (stroke), A. Somerville (cox.) (Station No. 1).

The race was a tough struggle between Nos. 1 and 3, the latter ultimately winning by a quarter of a length. No. 2 was a bad third.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

Sixteen members competed for the Gillies Cup on the Association Range on the 2nd inst. The following were the best scores:—

	200	500	600	H'cap	Tl.
Sergeant Graham	30	31	29	10	100
Gunner Baldwin	33	27	23	1	84
Sergeant Stewart	26	32	25	sc.	83
Private Sibbitt	24	23	17	16	80
Gunner Channett	17	29	14	19	79
Gunner Lapsley	25	25	22	sc.	72
Sapper McGhashan	21	21	11	19	72
Gunner Duncan	25	19	19	7	70

The following names have been assigned to the battleship, cruisers, and sloops included in this year's new shipbuilding programme at home, the orders for the construction of these vessels in the dockyards and private shipbuilding yards having been given:—Battleships.—*Queen*, Devonport; *Prince of Wales*, Chatham; Armoured Cruisers.—*Cornwall*, Pembroke, Suffolk, Portsmouth, *Berwick*, Beardmore and Co., Cumberland, London and Glasgow Shipbuilding Company, *Donegal*, Fairfield Shipbuilding Company, *Lancaster*, Armstrong, Mitchell and Co.; Second-class Cruisers.—*Challenger*, Chatham; *Encounter*, Devonport; Sloops.—*Odin*, Sheerness, *Merlin*, Sheerness.

HONGKONG CHESS CLUB.

We have received from the Hon. Sec., Mr. F. G. Hendley, the prospectus of the Hongkong Chess Club for the season 1900-1901. The Annual General Meeting of the Club will be held at the Club premises, 18, Bank Buildings, 2nd floor, on Monday, the 10th December, at 5.15 p.m., for the purpose of passing the Accounts of the Hon. Treasurer, which will be previously made up and circulated to Members, and of electing a Committee and Officers of the Club. In the meanwhile, the present Committee (consisting of Colonel The O'Gorman, President, Mr. H. E. Pollock, Mr. P. C. de Souza, Hon. Treasurer, and Mr. F. G. Hendley, Hon. Secretary) have arranged an interesting programme of events for the next few months.

1. Every two months, beginning from the 1st December, a ticket competition (known at home as "Go-as-you-please" tournament) will be held, to the winner of which a small prize will be presented. The person who wins the highest percentage of non-match games during the particular period of two months in question will be the winner of the ticket competition, subject to the following rules:—(1) The games must be played at Class Odds. (2) No more than 6 games for any one ticket competition must be played against the same antagonist. (3) The total number of games played for the particular ticket competition in question must be not less than 20.

2. Monday, December 10th. City v. Suburbs. Single game at Class Odds.

3. Monday, December 17th. Army v. The Rest. Class Odds. Best of Three.

4. January 1st. Play will begin for the competition in the Challenge Tournament Cup presented by Mr. H. E. Pollock, Mr. P. W. Sergeant being the holder of the Cup, having won it once.

5. Monday, January 7th. Muzio Gambit Match. No Class Odds. Best of three.

6. Monday, January 28th. Over 35 v. Under 35. Class Odds. Single game match.

7. Monday, February 11th. Scotch Gambit Match. No Class Odds. Best of three.

8. Monday, March 4th. Smokers v. Non-Smokers. Class Odds. Single game match.

9. Monday, March 18th. Evans Gambit Match. No Class Odds. Best of three.

Other fixtures may be arranged hereafter, of which due notice will be given.

The Champion Cup has been held by Mr. H. E. Pollock for many months past, and his right to continue to hold it is open to challenge.

Class Odds.—In future, the Members of the Club will be divided into four classes (scratch, pawn and move, pawn and two moves, and knight), in accordance with the present system prevailing at home, instead of into three classes as hitherto. A provisional division of Members into classes has been made by the Committee, but such division may be changed at any time by a majority of the Committee.

REVIEW.

China in Decay. By ALEXIS KRAUSSE. London, George Bell & Sons. Third Edition.

THE first edition of Mr. Krausse's *China in Decay* appeared in November, 1898. The preface to the present edition is dated August 1900. The book may be said therefore to have sold extremely well and, as the author claims, needs no apology for its publication. The present issue has been thoroughly overhauled and revised, and a considerable amount of matter has been added, including a record of events of this year down to the reported fall of the legations at Peking. It is a pity that this mendacious story has been allowed to be inserted in the book, but we must do Mr. Krausse the justice to remark that he does not dwell upon the report or allow it to vitiate his arguments. Nevertheless it would, we think, have been better had he waited until the truth or falsehood of the announcement of the massacre had been established.

Probably the book is familiar in its two former editions to a great number of our readers, and we will therefore confine our attention to the new part, contained chiefly in the chapters on "The Revolt of the Chinese" and "The Future of China." With regard to the immediate future, Mr. Krausse holds that it is a

foregone conclusion that China will not be allowed to go to pieces, if it can possibly be helped, and that all the countries interested would be embarrassed by such an occurrence. The alternative of the maintenance of a foreign force to preserve order he admits to be perilous. He continues:—

It is, however, to be feared that such a measure will prove absolutely necessary, and that beyond this, an advisory council of the representatives of the Powers will be requisite to ensure the carrying out of a reasonably progressive policy under the new régime. There are two elements of danger in regard to British interests at the present moment. The first is that Lord Salisbury, realising that the political capital derived from the war in South Africa is a negative quantity, may seek by embarking on a braggart policy to regain the lost ground in China and thereby gratify the national conceit of the electorate; the other, that the Government may go to the other extreme, and take no steps to secure the vast interests which appertain to this country in the Far East.

It will be seen that the latter danger has proved the greater of the two. Mr. Krausse goes on later to say:

It is time for England to make her mind up whether she intends maintaining what she has won by the ability, persistency, and self-sacrifice of her sons in the past; or whether she elects to sacrifice her interest on the altar of inaction. We have of late been treated to many brave statements of the Government's intentions, without any action being taken to make these statements good. . . . Convincing as these announcements sound, they have none of them been supported by more than talk. . . . A continuation during the next few years of the impotent policy displayed by this country in regard to Chinese affairs during the last, must most inevitably result in the extinction of our influence and the loss of our trade in the Far East. . . . Our rulers seem ignorant of the risks they run. Is there no way of enlightening them, or at least impressing them with a sense of the peril in which the country stands?

This attempt to impress, to enlighten, has been made for years by individuals or by corporate bodies who have British interests in China at heart. To a certain extent we shall see by the outcome of the present crisis whether any effect has been achieved. So far we have not done anything to boast of. Even the Anglo-German agreement, which looked like a strong step, seems gradually to be explained away. The reactionaries appear likely to escape from justice, a money indemnity is once more to be accepted as compensation for outrages, and the integrity-of-China clause in the agreement may not improbably be held to exclude Manchuria. Mr. Krausse in his concluding chapter thinks that Great Britain's predominance in China might once more be regained by insistence of the following measures:—Strict insistence of the observation of treaty obligations (with reference to waterways, ports, and the right of travel); a guarantee for the safety of foreigners in China, the local officials being held responsible; abolition of *lekin* dues in exchange for a 5 per cent. increase on the Customs; a tactful and able British Minister at Peking, with knowledge of China and the Chinese; a notice to China that we refuse to recognise privileges accorded to one nation and not simultaneously to all others; policing of the waterways; and the stationing of ships and troops at the treaty ports. Such measures are only possible if public opinion forces the Government to adopt them. Is it sufficiently strong? We fear not as yet.

Two Wuchang despatches to Shanghai appear in the *N.-C. Daily News* of the 30th ult. The first states that Viceroy Chang Chih-tung received recently a despatch from a Foreign Consul in Hankow stating that the latter had received a telegram from a Kansu missionary reporting that a large portion of General Tung Fuhsiang's army, numbering nearly 10,000 men, had left Shensi and entered Kansu province to join hands with the levies of Prince Tuan, raised on the Ninghsia-Mongolian borders, whose avowed object is to rebel against the Emperor. The Consul therefore requested the Viceroy to telegraph to Hsian asking the Government to instruct the local and military authorities of Kansu province to give protection and assistance to any missionary or foreigner in want of help there. Viceroy Chang sent his telegram to Hsian the same day. According to the other despatch, Chang Chih-tung received a telegram from Governor Ts'ên of Shensi asking the former to send with all haste eight quick-firing guns to Hsian, as there was urgent need of them. The guns in question were sent the next day.

CABLE CONNECTION OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE U. S. A.

The United States Government transport *Burnside*, in charge of Major C. W. Brooke, with Captain Latham as Navigating Officer, arrived at Colombo from New York on her way to the Philippines with a vast quantity of cable to connect the Islands with the States. The *Burnside* was a Spanish vessel captured in the war with the U. S. A. She left New York on September 26th with 550 miles of deep sea cable—the first deep sea cable made by an American firm (the Safety Incubated Wire Cable Co.), and costing about £1,500 a mile—and 250 miles of inshore cable, and the usual appliances for cable laying. The *Burnside* has on board only a portion of the machinery required for cable laying, as she is expected to take the machinery from the U.S. transport *Hooker* which was recently wrecked in the Philippines with a quantity of cable and machinery on board. The *Burnside* has been commissioned to take out a very large quantity of cable from New York, but was only able to take on the present voyage the portion mentioned. This will be used to connect the different islands of the Philippines with Manila, the work being expected to last till about April, when she will return to New York to take the remainder of the cable on board, and this will be used in connecting Manila with Honolulu and San Francisco, thus completing communication with the States.

THE CHINA STATION.

Owing to the operations in China and the importance of maintaining unimpaired the strength of the fleets belonging to the allied Powers, says the *Naval and Military Record* of the 1st ult., some of the British warships in Chinese waters have been detained on the station considerably beyond the usual commissioning period. The *Centurion*, flagship of Vice-admiral Sir E. H. Seymour, K.C.B., was, for instance, recommissioned at Hongkong on April 1st, 1897, and under ordinary circumstances should have been relieved some months ago. Her successor, the new battleship *Glory*, will be commissioned to-day (November 1st), but she is not likely to arrive on the station much before the end of the year. By the time the *Centurion* reaches home and is paid off, the Commission will have lasted very little short of four years. The cruiser *Undaunted* was recommissioned at Trincomalee on May 12th, 1897, and is still on the station. But for the Chinese revolt she would have returned to Devonport and been paid off before now, as her relief, the *Argonaut*, was commissioned at Chatham last April, and has been on the station for some time. As the *Undaunted* has been appropriated for service as a seagoing tender to the *Cambridge*, it is most likely that she will be the first vessel to be withdrawn from the station as soon as the situation has so improved as to justify the authorities in reducing the squadron to its normal strength.

New crews are to be selected from the depot ship *Pembroke* for despatch to China, to man the shallow-draught steamers *Woodcock* and *Sandpiper*.

A despatch received in Shanghai from Wuchang, Hupeh reports the arrival in that city on the 18th ult. of H.E. Sung Fan Vicaroy of the Yun-kwei province, from Peking en route to Yunnanfu. The Manchu Governor and staff were almost in rags when they arrived, having been plundered and robbed on their journey through Chihli and Honan provinces by disbanded soldiers and Boxers, who stripped them of their baggage and everything. Sung will remain a few days in Wuchang for a short rest and to get a new wardrobe, etc., for himself and staff. H.E. was called to Peking from Yunnanfu for an audience just before the Boxer outbreak in Peking and remained in the capital until after the fall of that city. Thinking matters had quieted down a little in the provinces, H.E. started on his journey south and seems to have fallen among thieves en route, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, his life even being threatened on one occasion.

THE DANGERS OF UNCERTIFICATED NAVIGATORS.

With regard to the practice which is permitted of British vessels being allowed to proceed to sea with uncertificated officers, the following letter has been despatched to the Board of Trade by the Merchant Service Guild in continuance of their previous representations:—

Merchant Service Guild,
25th July, 1900.

The Assistant Secretary,

(Marine Dept.) Board of Trade.

Sir,—The Guild have received the Official Notice (M. 9126) to Owners and Skippers relative to the navigation of steam fishing vessels, the same having been prompted from reports, of formal investigations recently held at Hull into the circumstances attending the losses of two steam trawlers. This Society is keenly gratified to observe the remark of the Board of Trade, that the requirement of the Merchant Shipping Act, dealing with trawlers of 25 tons and upwards, clearly implies that the watch on board should always be in charge of a certificated person and, accordingly, the Board cautions owners and skippers as to the consequences which may arise through non-attention to this in the future. Under the same cover there also came to hand the Report (No. 6059) of the Court of Inquiry which investigated the *Emrys—Wans Fall* (s.s.) collision through which loss of life ensued. At the time of the collision the *Wans Fall*, a steamer of 303.13 gross tonnage, was in charge of an uncertificated person—the boatswain—and little surprise need be felt at the decision of the Court that she was not navigated with proper and seamanlike care and that the casualty was brought about by his neglect. A severe punishment would have been meted out to a certificated officer, but, in this instance, the responsible man is quite outside the pale of justice. I am directed to quote the following extract from the Official Notice of the Board of Trade, who evidently endorse the same: "In the opinion of the Court, boatswains of steam trawlers should, under all circumstances, be experienced men, and thoroughly conversant with the regulations for preventing collisions at sea, seeing that it is clear that not only the safety of their own vessels and the lives thereon should be protected, but also the safety of other vessels navigating the high seas. The custom and practice of having inexperienced boatswains in charge of steam trawlers is a matter which the Court considers is in the strongest possible way to be deprecated."

It therefore appears to the Guild to be most inconsistent that, whilst it is requisite that small steam trawlers should be navigated with care and efficiency, large vessels in both the home and foreign trades are permitted to proceed to sea in charge of totally irresponsible persons without any certificates whatever, endangering not only their own lives and those immediately under them, but exposing other vessels in charge of properly qualified officers to perils which the general public are quite unaware of.

The Guild have previously represented this grave scandal to the Board, the last case being that of the *Raith*, where the Court found that the master was "not a competent man, and thoroughly ignorant of the duties he undertook to perform." Although this was "noted" by the Board at the time, further accidents have taken place, and no steps have yet been taken in bringing about a reform. For the avoidance of great, and perhaps terrible, disasters in the future, it is earnestly trusted by the Guild, as representing over five thousand certificated British Captains and Officers, that the Board will now take measures to enforce British vessels being in charge of capable persons, both in knowledge, experience, and the possession of a certificate issued by the Department. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

T. W. MOORE,

Assistant Secretary.

The Board of Trade in reply stated that in accord with their previous letter the matters referred to were under their consideration, but they were not prepared to initiate the legislation which would prevent the practice complained of. The Secretary of the Guild, Captain John

G. Moore, thereupon inquired whether, in the event of legislation being initiated by that body, it would receive the support and approval of the Board of Trade. This elicited a further important communication from the Department, who state in regard to ensuring the navigation of British vessels by certificated officers that "the Board fully recognise the importance of the measures advocated by the Merchant Service Guild, but, having regard to the practical difficulties in the way, they are not in a position to give any general undertaking as to the attitude of the Department towards the proposals in question. They will, however, be happy to consider any proposals on the subject which the Guild may desire to submit."

The Guild have the whole matter well in hand, and, having gained the sympathetic ear of the Board, hope eventually to remove the scandal which they have agitated upon for so long.

THE TYPHOON AT GUAM.

THE LOSS OF THE "YOSEMITE."

Further particulars as to the recent destructive typhoon at Guam, and the loss of the U. S. S. *Yosemite*, are given in the *Manila Times* of Saturday last. That journal says that Guam was devastated on November 13th by the fiercest typhoon that had struck its shores within the memory of man. Houses were wrecked, the crops were ruined, and unless relief is at once sent the people will die of starvation. There were several vessels in the harbour, among them the cruiser *Yosemite* and the *Justin*.

The cruiser *Yosemite* was dashed twice upon the reef, then blown 100 miles out to sea, where she was abandoned and scuttled on the 15th ult. The navy collier *Justin* which had been in the harbour and miraculously escaped destruction, took off the officers and crew of the cruiser. During the early part of the storm five members of the *Yosemite's* crew were ordered to find shelter for the ship's launch in the lee of Cabras Island. The launch was capsized and all hands lost.

The storm came up suddenly at 8 a.m. The *Yosemite* was lying in the harbour with her fires banked and two anchors down. The direction of the wind was north-east until 1 p.m. when it suddenly shifted to south by east, and attained a velocity of 107 miles per hour. The barometer went down to 27.40 during the height of the storm. Before the *Yosemite* could get up steam she was dragging her anchor and drifting about a mile across the harbour. About 11 a.m. she struck on the South reef and knocked a hole in her forward compartment. She then drifted half a mile west, and brought up an hour later against a cliff near Sumayo, carrying away her rudder post and greatly damaging her propeller. About 1 p.m. there was a sudden calm for a few minutes, and then the wind blew with increased violence from the south west. During the interim a volunteer crew of twelve attempted to take a life-line ashore. Their boat was stove in and capsized and the crew thrown into the surf. After battling for an hour and a half on the sharp coral every member of the boat's crew reached the beach in safety. During this time the *Yosemite* was blown off shore and drifted away in the darkness. The cruiser was entirely helpless, the forward 80 foot compartment being full of water so that she was well down by the head. The engine room was fortunately watertight, so that it was possible to keep all the pumps going.

When the storm cleared, about 6 p.m., the *Yosemite* was found to be miles north and west of the island. That night and all of the following day she was kept afloat through the united efforts of officers and crew.

About 1.44 p.m. on the 15th the *Justin* was sighted and was soon alongside. After several attempts to tow the disabled cruiser, during which two chains and two Manila cables were parted, Lieut. Birere decided to abandon her. By 7 o'clock in the evening the 138 members of the crew, 26 marines and 9 officers were aboard the *Justin*.

Lieutenant Birere decided it would be best to scuttle the vessel before abandoning her. Chief Engineer Nichols of the *Justin* volunteered to go down into the *Yosemite's* engine-room and open the stop-cock. This was hastily done and the cruiser was left to her fate.

About 3 p.m. on the 15th the *Yosemite's* stern tilted high in the air, and she went down bow first, her stern bursting open as she disappeared.

The *Justin* had a miraculous escape from destruction. Chief Engineer Nichols succeeded in getting up steam in wonderfully short order, despite the fact that he was totally unprepared. The *Justin's* anchors dragged. When the wind changed and it cleared for a few minutes, Captain Scott found that his vessel was but 100 yards from the cliff where the *Yosemite* was battering her life out. Fortunately his anchors held and the change of wind drove the *Justin* into deeper water, where she managed to ride out the gale.

The *Yosemite* was formerly the *El Sud* of the Morgan line. She was pressed into service as an auxiliary cruiser at the outbreak of the Spanish-American war and afterwards retained as a valuable addition to the navy.

The *Yosemite* was to have been transferred to Cavite in the near future and was to have been the flagship of the fleet there. She was valued at \$1,000,000.

The warehouse of the Western Commercial Company store was blown down. The loss will be about \$30,000. About six months ago the same Company sustained a loss of \$12,000 through a typhoon. The natives say that the storm of the 13th was the greatest in the memory of the oldest inhabitant.

None can estimate the damage sustained by property in general, says our Manila contemporary. Not a house of any pretensions remains standing, and the crops are a total loss. Scarcely a vestige of green remains on the island. As copra is the only export the natives will have no income for years to come.

HONGKONG.

Lieut. Col. H. E. Passy, Field Controller, China Expeditionary Force, who has been on a tour of inspection in North China, has returned to Hongkong.

The space set apart at the Happy Valley for Hindoo interments being fully occupied, the bodies of all members of that community who may die in the future either in Hongkong or Kowloon, are to be interred in the Hindoo Cemetery at the latter place.

A Chinaman was attempting to commit a burglary in a house in Queen's Road West on Monday night, when he alarmed the inmates, and in trying to effect his escape by jumping to the street, sustained an injury to his leg. He was taken to the hospital.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the funds of the Hospitals:—

Wong Lai Chuen\$5

Tseung Sz Kai\$5

The steamer *Australian* brought to Hongkong twenty-two more Australian ponies, the present consignment belonging to the class known as "Derbies." The ponies arrived in better condition than the previous batch of ponies who met with such a rough time on the voyage up.

The funeral took place at Happy Valley on the 4th inst. of Bombardier Turton, 25th Company Southern Division, R.G.A., who died in hospital on Sunday night from fever. The coffin, draped with the Union Jack and covered with wreaths, was mounted on a gun carriage. The band of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers attended.

The Mother Superior of the Italian Convent begs to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following sums for the extension of the Convent and other necessities for the coming winter:—

Aug. J. do Rosario\$100.00
Sir John Carrington 25.00
E. Niedhardt 6.00
A Friend 5.00

Another performance of *Our Flat* was given in the Theatre Royal on the 3rd inst. by the Amateur Dramatic Company. There was again a good attendance, Lady Blake and the Maharajah of Bikanir being among those present. The performance was in every way as successful as the preceding ones, the rounds of applause and roars of laughter being frequent. The proceeds on this occasion are to be given to the Italian Convent extension fund.

The return of the number of visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum shows that the former institution was visited by 441 non-Chinese and 126 Chinese, the latter by 194 non-Chinese and 2,226 Chinese.

A sham fight took place at Yaumati on the 30th ult. between the bluejackets and marines from H.M. ships at present in the harbour. The bluejackets formed the attacking and the marines the defending force.

The Robinson Piano Co. inform us that the Pollard Opera Company is due here on the 9th January. It will be remembered that they were expected here from Singapore this year, but owing to a change of plan the company went to Rangoon, where they have met with much success.

At the offices of the Public Works Department on the 3rd inst. Mr. G. J. W. King offered for competition Kowloon Inland Lot No. 1,112, situate at Ma-Tau-Kok. The lot comprises 5,000 square feet. The upset was \$300 and the price realised was \$320, the purchasers being the Naval Yard contractors, who bought the lot as a site for an overseer's bungalow.

A sham fight took place on the 4th inst. when a force composed of sections 2 and 3, representing the defenders, under the respective commands of Major Griffin, R.G.A., and Major Everitt, R.W.F., was opposed by a force under Major St. John, R.G.A., representing the invaders. The idea was the landing of an invading army at Sandy Bay or Tokwawan Bay, or both bays, with the object of capturing the Belcher's Group of Batteries, and then marching on Victoria. The task of the defending army was to repel the attack by preventing the landing of the force.

The chaplain of the Missions to Seamen appeals to the public for old newspapers and magazines for the use of the seamen on the ships in harbour. Parcels may be sent, we are told, addressed to Mr. Ashman, manager, to the Star Coffee House, D'Aguilar Street, or to the Kowloon Institute. If more convenient to donors of books, &c., a coolie will be sent to any address on receipt of a note intimating that parcels are ready for delivery. The Chaplain tenders his hearty thanks to those who have kindly contributed used literature to the seamen in the past, and trusts this appeal for a renewal of their bounty will not be in vain.

A notice from the Acting Harbour Master is published in the *Gazette* that, whereas certain junks, cargo-boats, &c., were sunk in the Harbour during the recent typhoon, and now cause obstructions to navigation, all sunken craft that are not raised, destroyed, or otherwise removed by December 20th will be destroyed by the Harbour Department, and no claim for compensation from any person claiming to be the owners of such vessels destroyed will be entertained. The notice quotes Ordinance 26 of 1891, section 28, sub-section (d.)—"Every person who shall neglect within a reasonable time to remove any sunken vessel or other obstruction (in the said harbour belonging to him or in his charge or keeping shall be liable to a penalty of not more than fifty dollars, or imprisonment for any term not exceeding three months, with or without hard labour."

A conflict occurred on the 3rd inst. between British bluejackets and marines and a body of French sailors. During the day the latter amused themselves by marching in a body through the streets of the town, headed by one man bearing the tricolour and another playing an accordion. At first they conducted themselves quietly enough, but later on, as the effects of frequent visits to various saloons began to be felt, they grew rather noisy. Marching in a body to an establishment in Ship Street where a number of British sailors were collected, these Frenchmen attempted to clear the whole place, but found the task beyond their weight, and had themselves to clear out. Determined on having revenge, they gathered reinforcements, and returned to the scene of the encounter. During their absence, however, the Englishmen had had their numbers swelled by the arrival of a crowd of bluejackets and marines, who had learnt of what was going on, and hurried to the scene. The reception accorded the Frenchmen may be better imagined than described, as the phrase goes. Suffice it to say that the sprinting exhibition they gave up Queen's Road Central was a revelation in what men can do when they are put to it.

Viscount Suirdale, A.D.C., is among the passengers for home by the *Sobraon* to-day.

The following appointments are notified in the *Gazette*:—Mr. John Smith to be Inspector of Nuisances; Mr. J. S. Kemp to be until further notice a Police Magistrate of the Colony; Mr. J. R. Wood to be until further notice Police Registrar of the Land Court vice Mr. Kemp.

At an Emergency Meeting, held on the 29th November, of the Ararat Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners, Wor. Bro. G. P. Jordan, assisted by Wor. Bro. A. O'D. Gourdin, installed Bro. G. J. W. King as Wor. Comdr. for the ensuing year. Wor. Comdr. N then invested his officers as follows:—J., Bro. J. Lookhead; S., Bro. G. P. Lammert; Treas., Bro. J. A. Wheal; Scribe, Bro. H. W. Wolfe; J. D., Bro. Kent; D. C., Bro. E. A. Hickman; J. G., Bro. R. Bowery; Steward, Bro. C. Robertson; Warder, Bro. J. Maxwell.

At the Magistracy on Tuesday, before Mr. Hazeland, C. J. Gonsalves, a clerk in the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, summoned Adao Soares, of 9, Richmond Road, for assault. A cross summons had been taken out by Soares, who had summoned Gonsalves for assault and for using abusive language. Mr. Gedge appeared for Gonsalves and Mr. Grist for Soares. His Worship suggested that the parties should endeavour to settle the matter. Mr. A. F. de J. Soares, the father of the defendant, had purposed bringing an action for damages against the complainant. At the meeting of the parties and their respective solicitors (at which Mr. A. F. de J. Soares was present), which meeting took place in consequence of the expression of opinion by His Worship, Mr. Gonsalves withdrew all the allegations he had made against Mr. A. F. de J. Soares and assured him that he would not speak against him in the future, and Mr. A. F. de J. Soares in return agreed not to proceed with his intended action for damages for slander against Mr. Gonsalves.

It is with great regret we have to record the death of Dr. Dennys, District Judge and Protector of Chinese in North Borneo, who succumbed to cancer at the Peak Hospital on the 5th instant. Dr. N. B. Dennys in the course of a long career in the Far East had a varied experience. He originally came out as Assistant Paymaster in the Royal Navy, and from thence was transferred to the Consular Service, and was for some time in the Legation at Peking. Wielding a ready pen, however, he thought journalism was his vocation, and left the service to take the editorship of the *China Mail*, of which he also became part proprietor with Mr. G. M. Bain. Dr. Dennys was Secretary of the City Hall Committee from 1869 to 1877, and made all arrangements for the opening of the building and the reception of H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh in 1869. In 1875 he retired from the editorship of the *China Mail*, and became in 1876 Secretary of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce and Curator of the City Hall Museum. During his short tenure of the latter post he added materially to the somewhat scanty collection in that institution. It was not a little due to his skill in taxidermy that the nucleus of the present collection in the Museum was formed. In 1877 he joined the Civil Service of the Straits Settlements, and continued there for many years as Assistant Protector of Chinese and subsequently as Magistrate. Towards the close of the eighties he accepted a pension and retired, but a few years' residence in the old country proved sufficient for him; he longed for sunnier climes, and eagerly accepted employment in the service of the British North Borneo Company a few years back, and took up his residence in Sandakan. His health had been failing latterly, and he came over to this Colony for a change a few weeks ago, but without receiving any benefit, for he died at the Peak Hospital on the 5th inst., at the age of 62. Dr. Dennys was the author of several useful works on China and the Malay Peninsula, and his book on Hongkong and the Treaty Ports of China was for many years the standard work on the subject. He was not only a facile writer but also a linguist of considerable attainments, a ready speaker, and a sparkling conversationalist. His brother, Mr. Henry Lardner Dennys, of the firm of Messrs. Dennys and Bowley, was lately Crown Solicitor of this Colony. He leaves a wife and several children.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The rat-market in Kobe is booming. Since the price paid by the City authorities has been raised 2 to 5 sen per head, the number of rats purchased has amounted—in three weeks—to 15,327, against 25,020 purchased between the 27th July and the 23rd October.

The Siam Electricity Co. at Bangkok is about to absorb both the tramway companies—the Bangkok Tramways Co. and the Siam Electric Railway Co. All three are Danish companies, and their amalgamation has been talked about for a considerable time.

The Osaka Shosen Kaisha's new sea-going steamer *Taisin-maru*, which has been under construction at the Kawasaki Shipbuilding Yard, Kobe, has been completed, and the new steamer was to be handed over to her owners on or about the 26th ult. She will be employed between Tamsui and Hongkong, in place of the *Maizuru-maru*, which is to be transferred to the Korean line.

The French cruiser *D'Entrecasteaux*, from Yokohama, arrived at Nagasaki on the 21st ult. The cruiser has on board three officers and 80 men of the transport *Caravane*, sunk off Ogijima after colliding with the Japanese transport *Yamaguchi Maru*. The commander of the cruiser is understood to be the bearer of an important report for the Home Government in regard to the collision.

The Planters' Association of Tonkin recently discussed the question of coffee cultivation in that quarter. Enterprise there in that line is still in an experimental stage. The best soil and climate for coffee in that region remain still to be ascertained. The plantations started have met with small success. One main drawback to enterprise lies in the prevalence of typhoons. The climate of Cochin-China has been found to be too damp for Arabian coffee, but the Liberian kind thrives there. On the other hand the Arabian berry takes readily to the dry climate of Tonkin.

A Kobe telegram to the N.-C. Daily News, dated the 28th ult., announces the death there from typhoid of Mr. A. C. Sim, long one of the most prominent foreign residents in Kobe. A Scot by descent, he was by occupation a chemist, but he was also prominent in athletic exercises, and a well-known member of the local fire-brigade. Also, to quote our contemporary, "he built yachts and steam-launches and sailed them in all sorts of weather, he was the right hand of Kobe whenever a typhoon struck it, he took contracts for refloating ships when they were stranded, and he refloated them."

A company floated with a view to developing the petroleum industry of Japan was registered on the 15th ult. The approved capital of the concern is 10,000,000 yen, which is contributed by six gentlemen only. Mr. J. W. Copmann, the agent for the Standard Oil Company at Yokohama, holds 3,780,000 yen; Messrs. J. H. Hartig, N. H. Dun, and Kumamoto each 5,000 yen; Mr. Otani Kahei 150,000 yen; and Mr. Magoshi Kyohei 50,000 yen. The Directors of the Company are Messrs. J. W. Copmann, N. Edwin Dun, and Otani Kahei, and the auditors Messrs. Magoshi Kyohei and J. F. Lowder.

A report from the Japanese Commercial Agent at Vladivostok says that the intention of the Russian Government to increase the import duties, in order to make provision for the expenses of the war, has been known for some time, but steps to put the new rates into operation have only recently been taken. The articles affected are spirituous liquors, cakes and tobacco, on which an extra tax of 50 per cent is imposed. The Consul says that with the exception of small dealings in Japanese *sake*, the Japanese merchants are very little concerned in these increases. But if the new tariff contemplated for goods entering the Amur district be put into operation from the beginning of 1901, 80 or 90 per cent. of the Japanese manufactured goods imported into that district will be affected. Especially if the revised tariff now in operation in European Russia be increased by from 10 to 50 per cent. and applied to the Amur region, Japanese trade with Russia will feel the change greatly. There is some talk, however, that the new tariff will not be enforced at Vladivostok until next August, which, according to general opinion, would be a wise postponement; but the truth as to this is impossible to ascertain.

The first through train on the railway from Bangkok to Korat was to start on the 10th ult.

A Japanese contemporary says that the actions of Field-Marshal Waldersee are causing dissatisfaction among the staff-officers of the allied forces. He plans everything in concert with his own officers, while the staff-officers of the other Powers are not consulted.

The *Japan Mail* thinks that the recent executions at Paoingfu will be classed by the Chinese "in the catalogue of dreadful outrages that already stand registered to the eternal disgrace of foreign troops in Chihli." If this is so, a statement in the *Peking Gazette* is required to avoid such a misconception being perpetuated.

Mr. Alfred Curjel, of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank at Bangkok, was recently married at St. Paul's Church, Manningham (Bradford), to Mabel, daughter of Mrs. J. C. Groveham, of Merlewood, Grassington, Yorkshire.

It is reported from Sasebo that fraudulent transactions have occurred in the Shipbuilding Department of the Japanese Admiralty there, in consequence of which five merchants who have been supplying materials to the Department were arrested on suspicion by the police and handed over to the Naval authorities. It is reported that the amount of money involved is very considerable.

The ice season being now about to set in, the Nippon Yusen Kaisha closed its steamship service on the Newchwang line on the 31st October, and therefore the steamer which left for that port from Kobe on the 28th ult. will be stopped at Chefoo. The service on the Vladivostok line will be closed with the steamer *Yamashiro Maru*, which is to leave Kobe on the 12th inst.

News was received in Shanghai on the 26th ult. from the North stating that the China Merchants' steamer *Irene*, flying the Chinese and the Red Cross flags, had been seized while en route to Tientsin by the Germans, but that after the search, presumably for contraband of war, she was released and allowed to proceed on her way. The *Irene* was chartered recently by a Chinese charitable association of local merchants and gentry to carry relief to poor and indigent southerners in the North and also to carry back, free of charge, such as desired to return to their homes.

The Singapore Cricket Club is about to commence its Christmas tour. The teams to meet Perak and Penang will leave Singapore on Tuesday, the 18th December, arriving at Penang on the 20th. The first match will be against Perak, commencing on the 21st and lasting three days, and on the 24th a football match will be played. The same evening the Singapore teams will return to Penang, and on the 24th, 25th, and 26th the Penang C. C. will be met at cricket in a three days' match. On the 27th a football match will be played between the Singapore representatives and Penang, bringing nearly a fortnight's tour to a conclusion.

As a mark of respect to the memory of the late Honourable John Sherman, formerly Secretary of State of the United States, who died on the 22nd October, the American flag was hoisted half-mast on the 3rd inst. at the U.S. Consulate. In a proclamation issued by him President McKinley says—"In the fullness of years and honours John Sherman, lately Secretary of State, has passed away. Few among our citizens have risen to greater or more deserved eminence in the national councils than he. The story of his public life and services is as it were the history of the country for half a century. In the Congress of the United States he ranked among the foremost in the house, and later in the Senate. He was twice a member of the Executive Cabinet, first as Secretary of the Treasury, and afterwards as Secretary of State. Whether in debate during the dark hours of our Civil War or as the director of the country's finances during the period of rehabilitation or as a trusted councillor in framing the nation's laws for over 40 years, or as the exponent of its foreign policy, his course was ever marked by devotion to the best interests of his beloved land, and by able and conscientious effort to uphold its dignity and honour. His countrymen will long revere his memory, and see in him a type of the uprightness and the zeal that go to moulding and strengthening a nation."

It is reported from Yokohama that a Chinese merchant of that port exported Japanese gold coin amounting to 50,000 yen to Hongkong by the German mail steamer *Stuttgart*, which arrived here on the 27th ult.

The following appointments have been made at the Admiralty:—Captain F. S. Inglefield, to the *Glory*, to date November 1; Naval Instructor F. M. Broadbent, M.A., to the *Glory*, to date November 1. The *Glory* was commissioned at Portsmouth on the 1st ult. for service in China.

The Chinese Imperial Post announces for this winter a maritime service to the northern ports leaving Shanghai by the first steamer leaving Shanghai for Chefoo after the arrival of mails from abroad, and an overland service to the ports, which will leave Chinkiang for Tientsin and *vice versa* three times a week from about the 11th inst. to the 21st of February.

The steamers arriving at Shanghai last week from the north reported heavy weather outside. At the outer bar, Taku, there was quite a fleet of steamers waiting for lighterage. As there is very little water just now, only light-draught vessels can get over the bar. As yet little ice has formed in the river, not enough to interfere with the working of cargo.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED KINGDOM AND CONTINENT.

	1900-1 lbs.	1899-00 lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai...	—	—
Amoy	361,863	379,575
Foochow	10,897,149	15,487,859
Canton	—	—
	11,259,012	15,866,934

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1900-1 lbs.	1899-00 lbs.
Shanghai	—	—
Amoy	13,851,465	11,311,959
Foochow	9,867,145	7,652,225
	23,718,610	18,964,184

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA

	1899-1900 lbs.	1898-99 lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow...	34,873,042	25,449,876

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1900-1 lbs.	1899-00 lbs.
Yokohama	23,087,720	24,538,687
Kobe	11,448,067	12,961,640
	34,535,787	37,500,327

SILK.

CANTON, 24th November.—Tsaitsees and Reels.—No settlements are reported. The quotations given below are purely nominal and \$40 to \$50 per picul above the idea of buyers. Filatures.—The fortnight under review may hold the record for the small amount of business transacted. Although demand is practically nil only small concessions are obtainable, and the prices are about \$40 per picul over Lyons rates. From prices paid we quote: \$805 for Min King Lun 11/13, \$500 for Kwong Shun Cheong 11/13 and 13/15 and Kwong Shun Hang 11/13, \$780 for Kwong Wing Lun 10/12, \$770 for Kwong Wo Hing 13/15, \$750 for Kwong Ho 13/15, \$680 for Wai King Wo 13/53, \$600 for Hop King Wo 13/22. Short-reels.—Almost nothing has been done for America, the only transactions heard of being: 10 bales Kwong Shun Tai 14/16 \$720, and 10 bales Hip Wo Hing 14/16 \$720. Waste.—Quiet, very little doing. Appended are quotations in Canton, with laying down cost in London and Lyons, Exchange 4 months' sight, 2/1½, and Pcs. 2.60 per Dollar.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1900-1901 bales.	1899-00 bales.
Shanghai	28,423	49,919
Canton	—	—
Yokohama	9,086	14,817
	35,512	64,736

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1900-1901 bales.	1899-00 bales.
Shanghai	3,765	6,718
Yokohama	9,196	18,618
	12,961	25,336

CAMPBOR.

HONGKONG, 7th December.—More arrivals are reported. Quotations are:—\$94.50 to \$95.00. Sales 100 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 7th December.—The prices are going upward, market being brisk. Quotations are:—
Shekloong, No. 1, White.....\$8.10 to \$8.15 per.
do. " 2, White.....7.20 to 7.25 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown.....5.25 to 5.30 "
do. " 2, Brown.....5.20 to 5.25 "
Swatow, No. 1, White.....8.00 to 8.05 "
do. " 1, White.....7.10 to 7.15 "
Swatow, No. 1, Brown.....5.20 to 5.25 "
do. " 2, Brown.....5.10 to 5.15 "
Foochow Sugar Candy.....10.50 to 10.55 "
Shekloong ".....11.90 to 11.95 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Suevia*, sailed on the 20th Nov. For Havre:—10 cases bristles, 12 cases human hair, 18 cases Chinaware, 35 cases cantharides, 214 bales canes, 817 pkgs. tea. For Havre and/or Hamburg:—9 cases Chinaware, 10 cases human hair, 20 cases bristles, 50 cases staranised, 50 bales canes, 79 rolls mats. For Havre and/or Hamburg and/or London:—10 cases essential oil. For Havre and/or Hamburg and/or London and/or Antwerp:—145 bales split bamboo. For Hamburg:—2 cases pictures, 3 cases camphor oil, 5 cases vermilion, 29 cases human hair, 32 cases camphor, 50 cases crackers, 60 rolls matting, 100 bales broken cassia, 110 pkgs. tea, 111 cases staranised, 162 bales feathers, 165 bales rattancore, 290 bales canes. For Hamburg and/or London:—70 bales feathers. For Amsterdam:—194 casks preserves. For Amsterdam and/or Rotterdam:—75 casks preserves. For Copenhagen:—34 bales canes. For London:—250 casks preserves. For Lisbon:—1 box charts, 6 cases Chinaware, 18 pkgs. tea.

Per steamer *Tantalus*, sailed on the 23rd Nov. For Liverpool:—3,300 bales hemp, 200 bales mats, 132 bales canes, 40 bales rope, 6 cases cotton goods, 6 cases blackwoodware, 1 case Chinaware, 1 case curios.

Per P. & O. steamer *Coromandel*, sailed on 24th November. For Manchester:—2 cases blackwoodware. For Glasgow:—2 boxes holmets, &c. For London:—35 bales raw silk, 25 pkgs. tea, 70 rolls mats, 20 cases dry preserves, 2 cases cigars, 1 case bird feathers, 3 cases private effects, 5 cases sundries, 5 cases bristles, 5 cases camphorwood trunks. For Lyons:—28 bales raw silk. For Marseilles:—35 bales raw silk, 270 pkgs. tea, 5 cases human hair.

Per P. & O. steamer *Canton*, sailed on the 1st December. For London:—2,819 bales hemp from Manila, 526 half chests tea from Amoy, 602 boxes tea from Macao, 6,070 boxes tea, 124 bales canes, 583 rolls mats and matting, 100 bales duck's feathers, 98 cases Chinaware, 38 cases blackwoodware, 8 cases canes, 2 cases China ink, 8 cases preserves, 2 cases curios, 4 cases effects, 9 cases furs and silks, 5 pkgs. rattanware, 87 cases dry preserves opt. Glasgow. For Buenos Ayres:—1,300 pkgs. tea from Macao. For Glasgow:—1 case feathers.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 7th December.—Malwa.—In consequence of short supplies from Bombay, our rates have advanced about \$10 per picul. New at \$790/800, old at \$820/840.

Bengal.—There has been a continuous decline in the prices during the interval, mainly due to one of the importer's pressing sales, but when the rates reached \$910 for both Patna and Benares, Chinese started to buy freely. We close with a steady market, Patna at \$913½ and Benares at \$910.

Persian.—No settlements are reported market is dull and prices are expected to decline.

STOCK.

Patna.....	822
Benares.....	209
Malwa.....	1,246½
Persian.....	2,646½

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 7th December.—Experienced a smart spurt, and rates are better by \$1 to \$2 per picul. Stock, about 1,100 bales.

Bombay, 18.00 to 20.00 picul
Bengal (New), Rangoon, } 19.00 to 22.00 "
and Dacca, } "
Shanghai and Japanese, ... 20.00 to 22.50 "
Tungchow and Ningpo, ... 20.00 to 22.50 "
Sale: 350 bales.

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee says in his Report, dated Hongkong, 7th December.—No increase of business is yet noticeable, but as harvesting approaches completion, dealers are making preparations to meet the expected resumption of demand. The market is showing signs of returning activity and we look for higher prices. Stocks are running down, receipts are now on a smaller scale, and holders are firmer, but prices are slow to move. Best spinnings are in short supply and will in all probability prove insufficient for requirements; medium and common are still out of favour but, we think, will have to be taken in the absence of best. No. 20s. continue to attract attention chiefly for the Northern markets and are 50 cents to a Dollar firmer in special spinnings. Sixteens and Twelves of desirable chops are salable at a small advance while No. 10s, still retaining the premier position as to demand, have become irregular in value.

Local Manufacture:—The Hongkong S. W. and Dyeing Mills have not raised their selling prices and sales of about 500 bales No. 10s and No. 12s, at \$87 respectively, have transpired.

Japanese Yarn:—Are very strong, and holders having in view the excited state of the home markets, the depletion of stock, and the higher cost of importations, are holding entirely aloof; the business of the fortnight being chiefly confined amongst the natives on the basis of \$101 to \$103 for Settsu, and \$99 to \$101 for Ashai and Kanegafuchi No. 20.

Raw Cotton:—Reports of decreased estimates in American and Indian crops have led to a smart advance of \$2 to \$3 per picul both in imported and Chinese descriptions and sales reported are 700 bales Toongchow and Ningpo at from \$22 to \$24, and about 500 bales Bengals at from \$19 to \$22, the local Mills being chiefly in evidence. Unsold stocks are estimated at 1000 bales Bengal and 300 bales Shanghai. We quote Bengal \$17 to \$22 and China \$21 to \$24.

Exchange on India has slightly advanced and closes to-day at Rs. 157½ for T/T and Rs. 158 for Post. On Shanghai 71½ and on Yokohama 3 per cent discount.

For the fortnight ending 3rd instant, the under-noted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai, viz:—

Indian:—Total sales 5,326 bales, comprising 2,750 bales No. 10s, 50 bales No. 12s, 810 bales No. 16s, and 2,216 bales No. 20s, prices showing an advance of one Tael in No. 20s, and market closing steady. Estimated unsold stock about 24,000 bales.

Japanese:—Total sales 2,500 bales, on the basis of Tls. 72½ to 73 for No. 16s, and Tls. 74½ to 76 for No. 20s, prices showing an advance of Tls. 2 to 3 and market closing strong. Stock Nil.

Local:—Total sales 5,000 bales, on the basis of Tls. 64 to 66 for No. 10s, Tls. 66½ to 67½ for No. 12s, and Tls. 67½ to 69 for No. 14s, prices showing an advance of half to one Tael and market closing firm.

RICE.

HONGKONG, 7th December.—The prices are declining, market being dull. Quotations are:—
Saigon, Ordinary \$2.85 to 2.90
" Round, Good quality 2.95 to 3.00
" Long 3.15 to 3.20
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2 2.90 to 2.95
" Garden, " No. 1 3.20 to 3.25
" White 3.90 to 3.95
" Fine Cargo 4.15 to 4.20

COALS.

HONGKONG, 7th December.—Small sales of Japanese at quotations:—

Cardiff \$24.00 sellers ex ship to arrive
Australian \$14.00 to \$14.50 ex godown, nominal
Yubari Lump \$11.00 ex godown, nominal
Miiki Lump \$9.50 nominal
Moji Lump \$7.00 to \$9.50 ex ship, steady
Hongay double } 10.50 ex godown
screened }
Hongay Lump 8.50 ex ship } nominal.
Hongay Dust 5.50 "
Briquettes 14.50 ex godown }

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 7th December.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—Bombay Yarn: 150 bales No. 8 at \$83 to \$85, 1,250 bales No. 10 at \$81 to \$87, 650 bales No. 12 at \$88 to \$92, 450 bales No. 16 at \$94 to \$100, 1,350 bales No. 20 at \$90 to \$96. Grey Shirtings: 600 pieces 8½ lbs. Green Peach at \$3. Mexican: 350 pieces 32 Blue Dragon at \$3, 600 pieces 36 XM at \$2.75.

COTTON YARN—

per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.....\$76.00 to \$108.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24.....114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24.....120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32.....136.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42.....155.00 to 170.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

per piece
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs. 2.15 to 2.25
7 lbs. 2.40 to 2.55
8.4 lbs. 2.90 to 3.60
9 to 10 lbs. 3.70 to 4.50
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. 2.60 to 2.80
58 to 60 " 3.25 to 4.05
64 to 66 " 4.30 to 5.55
Fine 5.20 to 7.90
Book-folds. 4.40 to 6.30
Victoria Lawns—12 yards..... 0.78 to 1.60
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y. 1.75 to 1.90
7lbs. (32 ") " 2.00 to 2.25
6lbs. (32 ") Mexs. 1.95 to 2.20
7lbs. (32 ") " 2.85 to 3.70
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.) 2.90 to 3.60
Drills, English—40yds., 14 to }
16 lbs. } 4.25 to 7.10

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to } 1.55 to 5.00
8 lbs }
Brocades—Dyed — to —
Chintzes—Assorted 0.08½ to 0.17
Velvets—Black, 22 in. 0.22½ to 0.60
Velveteens—18 in. 0.20 to 0.22½

per dozen
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.36 to 2.50

WOOLENS—

per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops. 0.80 to 1.50
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths 1.25 to 2.50
per piece
Long Ells—Scarlet..... 6.40 to 10.00
Assorted..... 6.50 to 10.10
Camlets—Assorted..... 12.50 to 32.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches } 8.00 to 20.00
Assorted }
Orleans—Plain 8.50 to 10.00

per pair
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs. 4.00 to 18.00

METALS—

per picul
Iron—Nail Rod 4.00 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.) 4.00 to —
Swedish Bar 6.50 to —
Small Round Rod 4.50 to —
Hoop ½ to 1½ in. 4.75 to —
Wire 15/25 8.00 to —
Old Wire Rope 2.50 to —
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop 10.25 to —
Australian 10.15 to —
Yellow M'tal—Muntz. 14/20 oz. 40.00 to —
Vivian's. 14/20 oz. 40.00 to —
Elliot's. 14/20 oz. 40.00 to —
Composition Nails 65.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs 41.00 to —
Tin 70.00 to —

per box
Tin-Plates 6.50 to —
per cwt. case
Steel ½ to 1 5.50 to —

SUNDRIES—		per picul
Quicksilver	158.00	to —
Window Glass	5.70	per box to —
Kerosene Oil	2.50	per 10-gal. case to —

VERNON & SMYTH'S SHARE REPORT.

HONGKONG, 7th December.—The business of the week calls for no special comment, except a boom in Douglasses and a firmness in Cements and Punjoms. Other Stocks have ruled quiet with no special features to report.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghais have been neglected as regards actual business, but rates have ruled strong in sympathy with a rise of 10s. on the London Market. Small sales have been made at 321 and 322 per cent. prem., market closing steady at 322. Nationals continue in demand at 326 to 326½.

MARINE INSURANCES.—With the exception of Cantons, which have improved to \$140, small sales of Unions at \$245 and China Traders at \$50, there is nothing to report under this heading.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have changed hands at \$295 and Chinas at \$76 and \$75 in small lots.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao were dealt in to a fair extent in the early part of the week at \$33, \$33½, \$33½ and \$34. Market, however, closes easier with sellers at \$33½. Indos have been placed at \$96 and \$96½ cash, and at equivalent rates forward. Douglasses continuing in demand suddenly jumped to \$46, at which a few shares changed hands; later with no shares available the rate rose further to \$50, at which rate a fair number changed hands. At time of writing the market is much quieter with no buyers over \$45. China Mutuals have been placed at £11 10s. for preferences and £6. 2s. 6d. for £5 ordinaries, both closing with buyers at the higher quotations. China Manilas unchanged and without business.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars continue quiet at \$123 without any business to report. Luzons could be placed at \$36.

MINING.—A fair business has been done in Punjoms at from \$3 to \$4.10, market closing quiet at latter rate. Raubs have further declined to \$47 without business. Jelebus, Caledonians, and Oliver B's have changed hands at quotations. Charbonnages continue in demand but without business.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks continue quiet with no sales. Kowloon Wharfs have ruled firmer with small sales at \$83 and \$83½, closing steady at the latter rate. Wauchais unchanged and without business.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have ruled very steady at \$187 to \$188 with small sales for cash and larger sales at \$192 for January and \$195 and \$196 for March. Hotels have changed hands at \$119. West Points at \$48, and Humphreys at \$11½, all in unimportant lots. Orientes are wanted at \$72½.

COTTONS.—No business to report except sales of Lau Kungmons at \$37.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Cements after further sales at 18½ have improved to 18½ with buyers. Watsons have been placed in a small way at \$15½ to \$16. Electrics have changed hands at \$11½ for old and 5½ for new issue. United Asbestos are inquired for at quotation without sales to report. China Providents have found buyers at \$9.75 and Watkins at \$10.75 to \$11. La Favoritas have declined to \$625.

MEMOS.—Extraordinary General Meeting Punjom Mining Co., on 8th instant. Extraordinary General Meeting A. S. Watson & Co., 20th instant. Extraordinary General Meeting Hongkong Cotton, &c. Co. on the 22nd instant. Extraordinary General Meeting Star Ferry Co. on the 23rd instant. The agents of the China Mutual S. S. Co. publish the following telegram, from Shanghai in connection with the reconstruction of the Company: "Referring to our telegram of 26th November, directors amended proposal agreed to giving one new bonus ordinary shares £7. 1s. fully paid shares bearing interest not exceeding 6 per cent. per annum for every shares held by present owners.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai	\$125	[527.50. 322 p. ct. prem. = London, £57.
China & Japan, ordy.	£4	£1.
Do. deferred	£1	£5 5s. Od.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares		\$26, buyers
B. Shares	£8	\$26, buyers
Foun. Shares	£8	\$20.
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	£1	\$1½.
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$20.
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9½, sales & sellers
China Sugar	\$100	\$123, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 32½.
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 30.
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 37, sales
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 375.
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 30.
Hongkong	\$100	\$6, buyers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$7, sales & buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$50.
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$18½, buyers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$50, buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas	£10	\$118, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$5	\$111, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$5.50, sellers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$180, buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$120.
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$178, sellers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$83, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$125	\$170, sellers
Insurance—		\$45 p. ct. prem. = [8806½.
Canton	\$50	\$140, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$75, sellers
China Traders'	\$25	\$50, sales
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$295, sales & sellers
North-China	£25	Tls. 172½, sellers
Straits	\$20	\$1.
Union	\$50	\$245.
Yangtze	\$60	\$110.
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$189.
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$11½, sales & sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$25½, buyers
West Point Building	\$50	\$48, buyers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$36, buyers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$30½, buyers
Gt. Estn. & C'donian	\$3	5 cents
Do. Preference	\$1	30 cents, sales
Jelebu	\$5	\$6½, sales & sellers
Queen's Mines Ltd.	25c.	7 cents, sellers
Olivers Mines, A.	\$5	\$2.
Do. B.	\$5	\$1.20, sales & sellers.
Punjom	\$8	\$4.10, sellers
Do. Preference	\$1	75 cents, sellers
Raubs	16s. 10d.	\$47.
New Amoy Dock	\$63	\$20, sellers
Oriente Hotel Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$72, buyers
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	(\$65, sellers
China Mutual Pref.	£10	(\$27, sellers
China Ordinary	£10	£12, buyers
Do.	£5	£6. 5s., buyers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$45, buyers
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$33½, sellers
Indo-China S. N.	£10	\$96½.
Shell Transport and Trading Co.	£1	£3 5s., buyers
Star Ferry	\$10	(\$18.
Tobru Planting Co.	\$5	(\$4½, sales & sells.
United Asbestos	\$4	\$3, sellers
Do.	\$10	\$8, buyers
Wanchai Warehouse	\$37½	\$20.
Watkins, Ltd.	\$10	\$64, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$11.
Universal Trading Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$16, sales
Cigar Companies—		\$5½, buyers
Alhambra, Limited	\$500	\$1,500, buyers
La Commercial, Ltd.	\$500	\$1,000, ex div.
Hensiana, Limited	\$100	\$100.
La Favorita, Ltd.	\$500	\$625, buyers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

FRIDAY, 7th December.
EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer	2/1½
Bank Bills, on demand	2/1½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2/1½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	2/1½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/1½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/1½

ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand	2.64
Credits, 4 months' sight	2.69½

ON GERMANY.—

On demand	2.15
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ON NEW YORK.—

Bank Bills, on demand	51½
Credits, 60 days' sight	52½

ON BOMBAY.—

Telegraphic Transfer	157½
Bank, on demand	158

ON CALCUTTA.—

Telegraphic Transfer	157½
Bank, on demand	158

ON SHANGHAI.—

Bank, at sight	71½
Private, 30 days' sight	72½

ON YOKOHAMA.—

On demand	3 p.c. dis.
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ON MANILA.—

On demand	Par.
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ON SINGAPORE.—

On demand	½ p.c. pm.
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ON BATAVIA.—

On demand	126
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ON HAIPHONG.—

On demand	2 p.c. pm.
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ON SAIGON.—

On demand	1 p.c. pm.
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ON BANGKOK.—

On demand	60
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SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate 9.40

GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael 49

BAR SILVER, per oz. 29½

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 7th December.—Since last report, freights coastwise have declined. From Saigon to Hongkong, 13 cents per picul nom.; to Java 32 cents nom.; to Philippines, small carriers are wanted at 37½ cents per picul. Java to this, no enquiry. Bangkok to Hongkong, 30 and 35 cents per picul is obtainable for January loading. Moji to Hongkong, \$3 per ton; to Singapore, \$3.25 per ton.

The following are the settlements:—

Vale of Doon—British bark, 669 tons, two trips, Rajang to Hongkong, \$8,500 each.

Benlarig—British steamer, 1,453 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$3.20 per ton.

Germania—German steamer, 1,714 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$3.20 per ton.

Onsang—British steamer, 1,787 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$3.10 per ton.

Monkseaton—British steamer, 1,776 tons, Moji to Singapore, \$3.50 per ton.

Holstein—German steamer, 1,103 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 36 cents per picul.

Taksang—British steamer, 977 tons, two trips, hence to Bangkok and back, 40 and 35 cents per picul.

Benvenue—British steamer, 1,468 tons, three ports north coast Java to Hongkong, 32 cents per picul.

Else—German steamer, 903 tons, monthly, 2 months, \$8,000 per month.

Ragnar—Norwegian steamer, 1,220 tons, monthly, 5 months, \$10,000 per month.

Petrarch—German steamer, 1,252 tons, monthly, 6 months, private terms.

Hermes—Norwegian steamer, 849 tons, monthly, 12 months, \$8,500 per month.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR LONDON.—Sobraon (str.), Socotra (str.), Calchas (str.), Inaba Maru (str.), Antenor (str.), Achilles (str.), Shinano Maru (str.).

FOR LIVERPOOL.—Pyrrhus (str.), Ulysses (str.).

FOR MARSEILLES.—Inaba Maru (str.), Shinano Maru (str.).

FOR BREMEN.—Konig Albert (str.).

FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—Sambia (str.), Ambria (str.), Aragonia (str.), Wittenberg (str.), Holatia (str.).

FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—Glenogle (str.).

FOR VANCOUVER VIA SHANGHAI.—Empress of Japan (str.).

FOR SAN FRANCISCO.—Gaelic (str.), Hongkong Maru (str.), China (str.).

FOR NEW YORK.—Glenartney (str.), Hudson (str.), Verona (str.), Devonshire (str.), R. Morrow (ship).

FOR AUSTRALIA.—Chingtu (str.), Airlie (str.), Rosetto Maru (str.).

FOR SAN DIEGO.—Carlisle City (str.).

FOR PORTLAND, O.—Adato (str.).

FOR BOMBAY, VIA SINGAPORE AND COLOMBO.—Hiroshima Maru (str.).

FOR SINGAPORE, COLOMBO AND BOMBAY.—Maria Teresa (str.).

FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG AND BOMBAY.—Bormida (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

November— ARRIVALS.

30, Tetartos, German str., from Java.
30, Holstein, German str., from Saigon.

December—

1, Wittenberg, German str., from Singapore.
1, Tiger, Norw. str., from Kutchinotsu.
1, Tsingtau, German str., from Moji.
1, Tyr, Norwegian str., from Moji.
1, Akashi Maru, Jap. str., from Coast Ports.
1, Daybreak, British str., from Shanghai.
1, Fulwood, British str., from Cardiff.
1, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
2, Charterhouse, British str., from Straits.
2, Goodwin, British str., from Manila.
2, Glenogle, British str., from Tacoma.
2, Shansi, British str., from Wuhu.
2, Wingsang, British str., from Swatow.
2, Annam, French str., from Shanghai.
2, Else, German str., from Canton.
3, Lalpoora, British transport, from Taku.
3, Gaelic, British str., from San Francisco.
3, Maria Teresa, Austrian str., from Moji.
3, Oceanien, French str., from Marseilles.
3, Onsang, British str., from Java.
3, Wardha, British trapt., from Weihaiwei.
3, Braemar, British str., from Manila.
3, Woosung, British str., from Shanghai.
4, Japan, British str., from London.
4, Loongmoon, German str., from Canton.
4, Michael Jebson, Ger. str., from Hoihow.
4, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
4, Grant, American trapt., from Manila.
4, Taksang, British str., from Swatow.
4, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
4, B. Morrow, British bark, from Manila.
4, Taiyuan, British str., from Adelaide.
4, Tientsin, British str., from Shanghai.
4, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
5, Pyrrhus, British str., from Shanghai.
5, Prinz Heinrich, German str., from Bremen.
5, Itaura, British transport, from Shanghai.
5, Pakshan, British str., from Bangkok.
5, Maidsuru Maru, Jap. str., from Tamsui.
5, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
5, Belgika, Amr. str., from Bongao.
5, Tsurugisan Maru, Jap. str., from K'notsu.
5, Chas. Rogier, Belgian str., from Moji.
6, Benclutha, British str., from Shanghai.
6, Thales, British str., from Haiphong.
6, Kwongsang, British str., from Wuhu.
6, Australian, British str., from Sydney.
6, City of Cambridge, British transport, from Shanghai.
6, Weissenburg, German battleship, from Woosung.
6, Hailoong, British str., from Haiphong.
6, Dardanus, British str., from Liverpool.
6, Sobraon, British str., from Shanghai.
6, Scindia, Amr. transport, from Cavite.
6, Suisang, British str., from Calcutta.
7, Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.
7, Daphne, German str., from Swatow.
7, Wakasa Maru, Japanese str., from London.
7, Yedo Maru, Japanese str., from Keelung.
7, Chingtu, British str., from Moji.
7, Vadala, British transport, from Taku.
7, Fushun, British str., from Shanghai.

December— DEPARTURES.

1, India, British transport, for Calcutta.
1, Canton, British str., for London.
1, Pentakota, British trapt., for Calcutta.
1, Maine, British hospital sh., for Bombay.
1, Hoihao, French str., for Hoihow.
1, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
1, Hue, French str., for Kwong-chow-wan.
1, Kwanglee, British str., for Shanghai.
1, Taiwan, British str., for Shanghai.
2, Dunav, Austrian str., for Saigon.
2, Tamsui Maru, Jap. str., for Tamsui.
2, Formosa, British str., for Swatow.
2, Tsinan, British str., for Hongay.
2, Breconshire, British str., for Calcutta.
2, Phra C. Klao, British str., for Bangkok.
2, Helios, German str., for Hongay.
2, Hillglen, British str., for New York.
3, Annam, French str., for Europe.
3, Shansi, British str., for Canton.
3, Zafiro, Amr. des-ves., for Manila.
4, Comete, French g-bt., for Canton.
4, Oceanien, French str., for Shanghai.
4, Rajah, British str., for Bombay.
4, City of Peking, Amr. str., for San Francisco.
4, Gwalior, British hospital ship, for Bombay.
4, Lalpoora, British trapt., for Calcutta.

4, Sandakan, German str., for Sandakan.
4, Charterhouse, British str., for Swatow.
4, Hangchow, British str., for Samarang.
4, Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.
4, Wingsang, British str., for Canton.
4, Deuteros, German str., for Saigon.
4, Woosung, British str., for Canton.
5, Descartes, French cr., for Foochow.
5, Germania, German str., for Vladivostock.
5, Tiger, Norw. str., for Kutchinotsu.
5, Progress, German str., for Tournon.
5, Braemar, British str., for Tacoma.
5, Eva, German str., for Portland (Or.)
5, Wittenberg, German str., for Yokohama.
5, Akashi Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
5, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
5, Haiching, British str., for Haiphong.
5, Else, German str., for Shanghai.
5, Taksang, British str., for Shanghai.
5, Perla, British str., for Manila.
5, Machew, German str., for Bangkok.
5, Wardha, British trapt., for Bombay.
6, Grant, Amr. trapt., for New York.
6, Michael Jebson, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
6, Japan, British str., for Shanghai.
6, Ariake Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
6, Wongkoi, German str., for Bangkok.
6, Prinz Heinrich, Ger. str., for Shanghai.
6, Benclutha, British str., for Canton.
7, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
7, Munchen, German str., for Sydney.
7, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
7, Holstein, German str., for Saigon.
7, Tetartos, German str., for Amoy.
7, Quarta, German str., for Singapore.
7, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
7, Goodwin, British str., for Moji.
7, Taiyuan, British str., for Weihaiwei.
7, Pyrrhus, British str., for London.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Perla*, from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart, Messrs. Clift, Rivington, Ramon Cators, A. Macholt, Eslich, J. Pesinquet and C. Walters.

Per *Empress of Japan*, from Vancouver, &c., Messrs. W. J. Anstey and H. Skott, Mrs. A. C. Clarke, Miss E. Scidmore, Mr. D. E. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Johnson.

Per *Annam*, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Messrs. J. N. Pubath and Fakanathi; from Kobe, Messrs. A. M. Joomkavalla and Bootchand; from Nagasaki, Mr. C. P. Jones; from Shanghai, Rev. Escoffier, Messrs. J. Gray, Pere Vial, Pere Halharm, H. Stevenson, Bany, J. Chen McEsen, G. H. Howes and E. A. Caplin.

Per *Gaelic*, from San Francisco, &c., Messrs. A. J. Findlay, A. J. Menocal, Capt. and Mrs. George Conner, Master Max Conner, Messrs. R. M. Bowles, L. Colver, Miss J. H. Tucker, Messrs. H. M. Mackinnon, R. Law Smith, T. S. Morton, Mrs. H. Jones and infant, Messrs. A. J. Gillott, Tevis Blanding, C. H. Renck, J. B. Metcalf, Mrs. A. M. Roberts, Mr. W. Law Smith, Mrs. A. Clark, Messrs. E. W. Rutter, H. Howell, Wm. Smith and W. O. Morgan.

Per *Oceanien*, for Hongkong, from Marseilles, Messrs. Thieband, Croog and Emery; from Bombay, Messrs. Suzuki and Rushibi; from Singapore, Messrs. Dumontel Egreze, W. Castons, Blair, Macaulay and Bonnet; from Saigon, Messrs. Fournier, Vincent, Mrs. Endtner, Mrs. Cromar, Mrs. Fournier, Mrs. Akol, Mrs. Tassel and Mrs. Labous; for Yokohama, from Marseilles, Rev. Chambon, Messrs. Kagasaki and Nicholas, General Bougnie, Capt. Fontenoy, Messrs. Taddei di Torolla, Cognacy, Theiss, Marie and Yung; for Kobe, from Marseilles, Miss V. Osaka; for Nagasaki, from Marseilles, Mr. Tiranhoff; from Port Said, Mr. A. Osoroff, Mr. McIvan and son; from Singapore, Mrs. Oohika; from Saigon, Messrs. Lepage, Legosus and Leclere; for Shanghai, from Marseilles, Messrs. Fuchmeister, Reeve, Hygoon, Collars and Raymond; from Singapore, Mrs. L. Hart, Messrs. Morris, Mario Kanapa, Saiman Kurs, Rieber, Herman and Mrs. Hachama; from Saigon, Messrs. Smith, de Joysy and Perkin.

Per *Taksang*, from Swatow, Mrs. and Master Gilbert.

Per *Loongsang*, from Manila, Mrs. M. A. Rennolds, Messrs. Pedro F. Propongeo and R. H. Huddle.

Per *Urlana*, from Taku, Capt. Tulloch, R.E., and Capt. Campbell, Middlesex Regt.

Per *Haiching*, from Coast Ports, Messrs. H. P. White, E. T. C. Werner, W. Decker, L. Suidter and H. O. Pritchard, Mrs. Huck, Mrs. O'Sullivan, Mr. and Mrs. S. Ferrier.

Per *Prinz Heinrich*, from Bremen, for Hongkong, Mr. Abel Johnsen; for Shanghai, Capt. Lieut. Blomeyer, Mr. and Mrs. H. Grun, Mr. Wilh. Kohler, Mrs. Gerhardine Kleffel, Messrs. Gerhard Kleffel, Ernst Kleffel, John Kleffel, Julius Kleffel and Friedrich Kleffel, Mrs. Dorothea Peters, Mr. Otto Peters, Mrs. Elisabeth Stellges, Messrs. Schroeder, Carl Wurtmann and Hartmann; from Antwerp, for Shanghai, Mr. Karl Ehrhardt; from Southampton, for Hongkong, Miss M. Johnstone, Miss Pringle and Miss Walton; for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. W. Holland, Mrs. Kassburg, Miss Kiniven, Mrs. Laing Niven, Messrs. Sloan and C. D. Stewart, Rev. and Mrs. Wellross and children; for Nagasaki, Miss Ester Karsiner; for Kobe, Rev. and Mrs. H. G. Warren and children; for Yokohama, Miss G. A. Reid; from Genoa, for Hongkong, Mr. Fritz Kirchhoff, Mr. and Mrs. H. Keswick; for Shanghai, Messrs. Beilker, H. Wolf, Gebh. Bischoff, Felix Benahausen, H. Bass, and Otto Finger, Mr. and Mrs. Gunther, Messrs. Fritz Karge and Markull, Miss J. Patterson, Mr. and Mrs. C. le B. Riekman and child, Messrs. Ernst Schmidt, Carl Wals, Max Wolf and Carl Weig; for Kobe, Mr. E. Holste, Miss A. C. Bosanquet, Miss A. M. Cox, Miss E. S. Fox, Rev. S. Heaslett and Rev. C. W. Rawlings; for Yokohama, Mrs. A. Churchill and Mr. Alfred Hosh.

Per *City of Cambridge*, from Shanghai, Capt. Geogchan and Mr. Wright.

Per *Australian*, from Queensland, Right Hon. Earl Beauchamp, Messrs. Percival Landon and T. H. Barton; from New South Wales, Miss Lyons, Messrs. James Bennett, Hugh G. Watson, T. S. Scott, H. L. Bevan and D. J. D. Bevan; from Victoria, Mr. S. K. Ngou; from Port Darwin, Mr. H. Ford and Mrs. D. Lee; from Manila, Mr. W. A. Fitton and Mrs. M. Stanford.

Per *Sobraon*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Lowman, Mr. and Mrs. Mehta, Misses S. and I. Mehta, Messrs. Blohm, P. Schrieterer, R. P. Dipple and C. Rodersen, Capt. Grenville, Messrs. Mekar, F. P. Pratt, W. D. Sutton, A. C. Mackenzie, Jewitt and Mrs. Marshall; Colombo, Mr. G. H. Murray; for Bombay, Dr. Shephard; for Marseilles, Misses James and Ross and Mr. G. H. Reith; for London, Mr. E. N. D. Parr, Miss L. Hastings, Mr. and Mrs. Lutley and infant, Mr. and Mrs. G. L. D'Arc, Mr. and Mrs. Bobby and infant and Rev. H. Matthews.

DEPARTED.

Per *Canton*, for London, from Hongkong, Mr. C. S. Powell; from Foochow, Rev. and Mrs. Light; from Shanghai, Mrs. Martin and children, Mrs. Henderson and child, Master Pym, Mrs. Agasseg and children; from Kobe, Mr. and Mrs. Annal and children; for Colombo, from Kobe, Miss Forlong.

Per *Annam*, from Hongkong, for Saigon, Mrs. Mar and Mr. Tramchi; for Singapore, Capt. Mullek, R.A., Miss E. R. Scidmore, Messrs. J. W. Cashier and W. G. Taylor; for Colombo, Capt. A. Hay, Mrs. J. C. Phelps and Miss Phelps; for Marseilles, Messrs. L. Dumarest, M. d'Aguiar, P. Roy and J. Cocq.

Per *Oceanien*, for Shanghai, from Hongkong, Mr. J. M. Tavares, Mrs. Dang and child, Rev. Fathers H. Barry and L. Galibert, Mr. S. Falkensik, Mrs. M. Bak and Mr. A. Christiansen; for Nagasaki, Consul K. Uyeno, Mr. M. Gracias and Mrs. Levin.

Per *City of Peking*, for Shanghai, Messrs. R. E. Kelly, A. Burke, E. A. Taplin, and E. T. Kelly; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Donnenberg; for Honolulu, Mr. W. A. Castens; for San Francisco, Mr. Cremer; for New York, Mr. W. H. Dicker; for Quebec, Mr. A. Maichot.

Per *Perla*, for Manila, Messrs. A. D. Cortes, R. Catala, J. J. Connell, Miss Mortimer, Mr. W. A. Oram, Mrs. Carvalho, Mrs. T. A. See, Messrs. G. Santo-Tomas, L. Santo Tomas, J. Fournier, W. O. Morgan, R. Domingo, M. Beones, D. Ramsay and E. Lynch.

Per *Loongmoon*, for Shanghai, Messrs. Reiber, Dennault, Meldrani and D. Jesus.

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